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LAUGH UNDER THE SUN

YUGI YAMADA

Profile

BORN MARCH 26th

BLOOD TYPE B

Born in Sapporo, Hokkaido.

Now lives in Kanuma, Tochigi Prefecture

Has recently become concerned about her gums showing when smiling. There is nothing more unseemly, and yet for some reason they always do.

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I'M GONNA DO IT! I'M GONNA BE A BOXER AND THEN BECOME WORLD CHAMP!
FORGET IT, SOHEI. YOUR FACE'LL GET ALL MESSED UP. IT'S THE ONLY THING YOU HAVE GOING FOR YOU
DON'T GET ALL EXCITED JUST BECAUSE YOU READ "ASHITA NO JOE*" LAST NIGHT

* KNOWN IN ENGLISH AS "TOMORROW'S JOE," OR "ROCKY JOE."

LAUGH UNDER THE SUN

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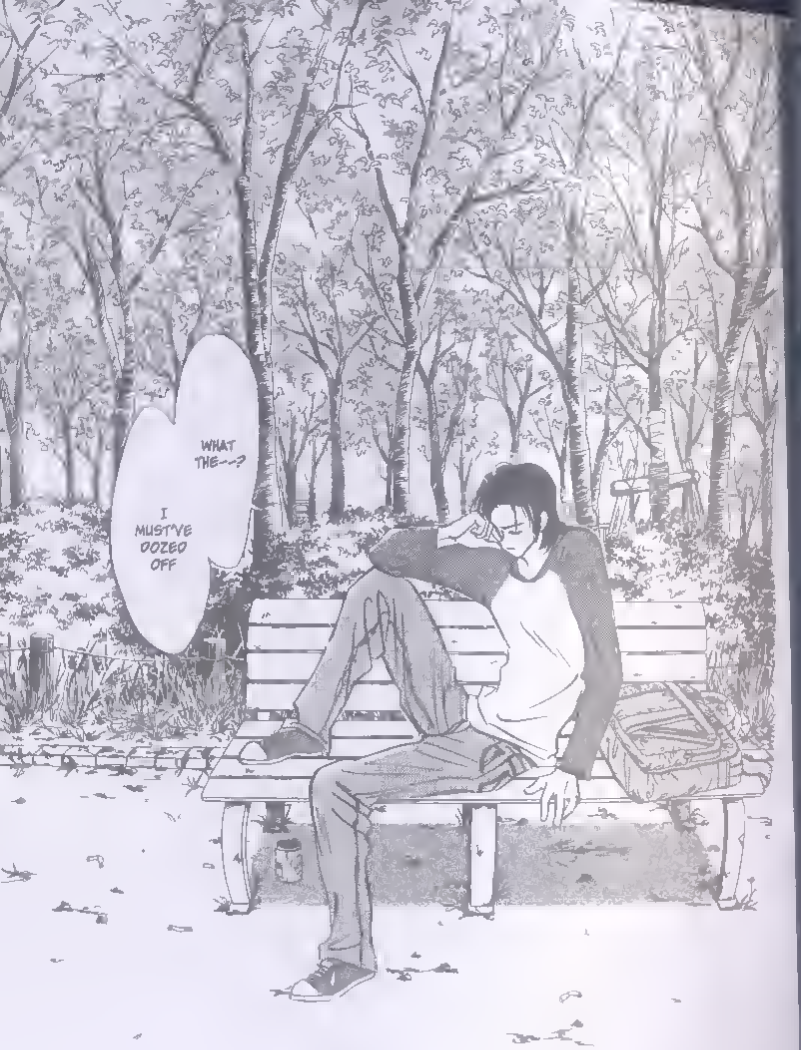
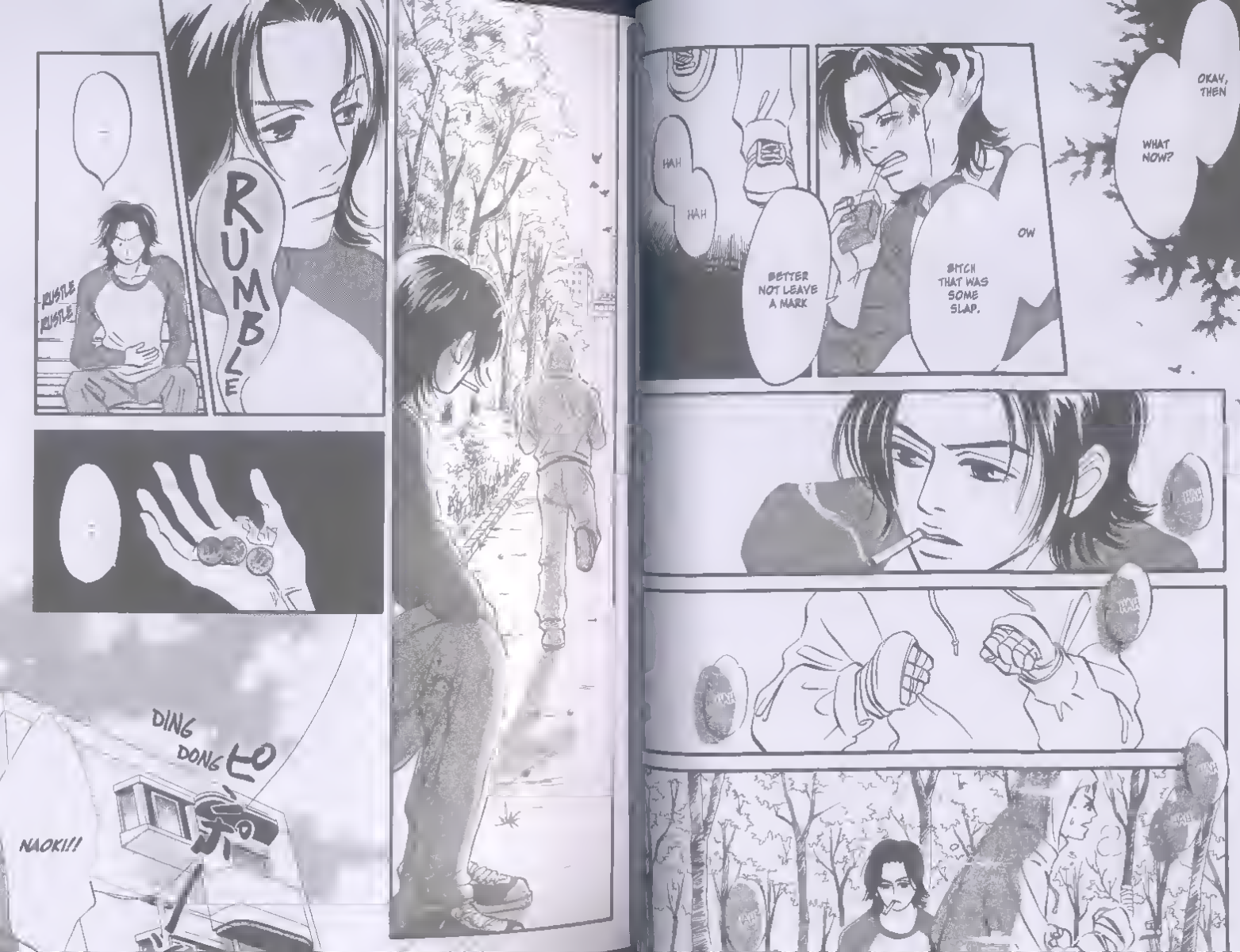

WHAT THE--?
I MUST'VE OOZED OFF

ROUND·1

YOU'RE NOT HARD TO UNDERSTAND AT ALL.
C'MON CHIKA YOU JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND
NAOKI BRING IT DOWN A NOTCH
HA HA HA HA!
YOU GOT THAT RIGHT!
KEEP IT DOWN
YU, R- STILL LAUGHING?
Ho Ho
Ho Ho
Ho Ho

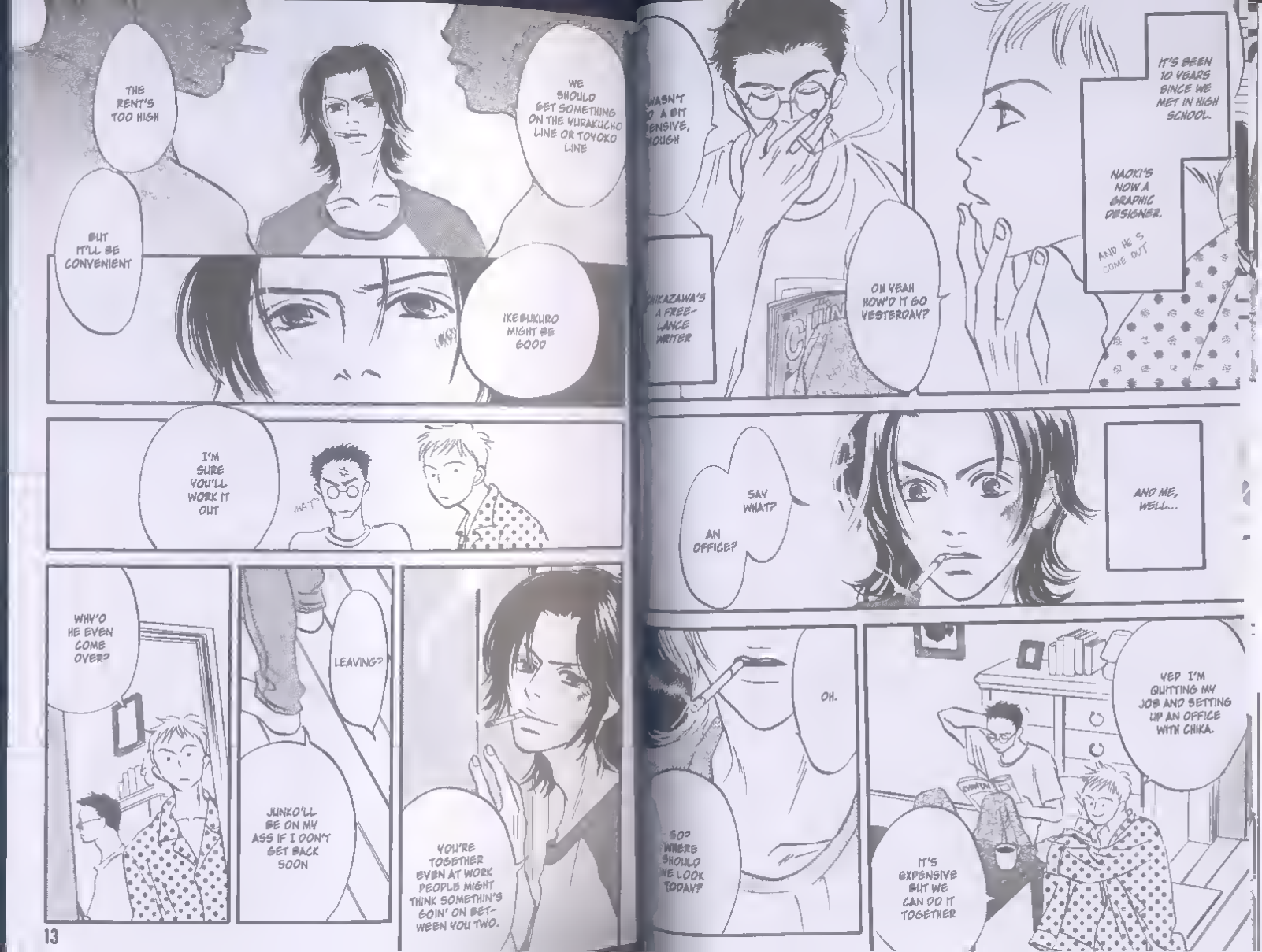
A HA HA
DING!
DING!


RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
DING DONG
NAOKI!!
HAH
HAH
BETTER NOT LEAVE A MARK
OW
BITCH THAT WAS SOME SLAP.
WHAT NOW?
OKAY, THEN
HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH

HMPH
THAT'S QUITE A SHINER YOU'RE SPORTING THERE
AND ALL YOU'VE GOT IS YOUR LOOKS..
THAT MIGHT MAKE AIKI CRY
SCREW YOU.
DO IT YOURSELF.
COULDN'T YOU AT LEAST CUT IT, OR TOAST IT?
JUST A LOAF?
WHAT?
AT LEAST I'M NOT SO LAME THAT THE ONLY THING I CAN THINK TO DO IS SPEND THE NIGHT AT MY GAY FRIEND'S PLACE
PHHT
NO! A DRESSER FELL ON ME
HMM? A WOMAN?
WHAT MADE HER DO IT?

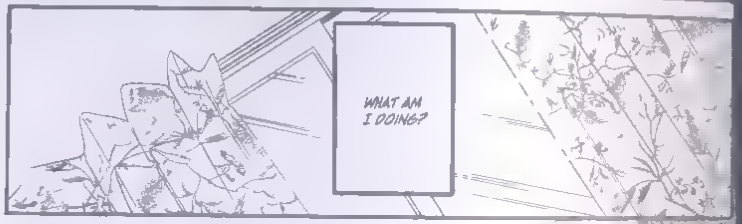
WHO THE F---?
WAKE UP! IT'S A GREAT WEEKEND MORNING!!
DING DONG
DING DONG
C'MON! NAOKI! YOU HOME?!
CHIKA?
SOHE!?
PLOP
3.6 MILK
3.6
SO, DIE.
YOU'LL DO GIMME SOMETHIN' TO EAT.
I'M SO HUNGRY I COULD DIE
C'MON CHIKA
SLEEPING DO YOU KNOW WHAT TIME IT IS?
WHATTA YOU DOIN' HERE? WHERE'S NAOKI?
6:30 AM

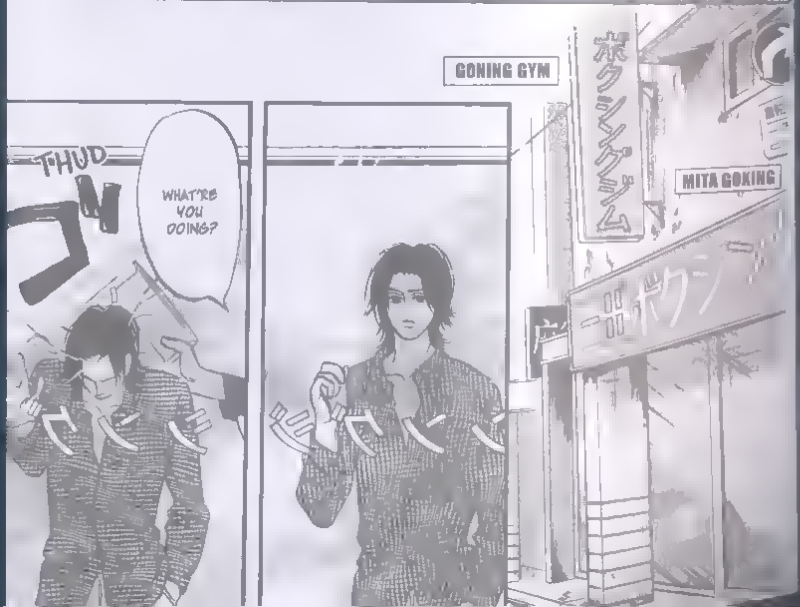
EEW! YOU QUEERS!
LOOK WHO'S TALKING!
HEY, NAOKI.
E.
WHAT?!
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THERE WAS SOMETHING.
WRESTLING AROUND SO EARLY IN THE MORNING
BETTER QUEER THAN STUPID!
YOU WANT THIS QUEER?
KYA!
YOU AIN'T EVEN SPELL IT
COME ON, YOU TWO
THIS SUMS UP OUR RELATIONSHIP FROM DAY ONE
BESIDES, I HAVE BETTER TASTE IN MEN ANYWAY
NO WAY! I DON'T SWING LIKE THAT!
EXCUSE ME
COUGH
WHAT?! IF YOU'RE GONNA LAUGH, JUST LAUGH!!
CAN YOU TWO PIPE DOWN?
SQUEEK
CHIKA, YOU SUCK!
HEY! YOU SAID I SHOULD LAUGH


THE RENT'S TOO HIGH
WE SHOULD GET SOMETHING ON THE YURAKUCHO LINE OR TOYOKO LINE
BUT IT'LL BE CONVENIENT
IKEBUKURO MIGHT BE GOOD
I'M SURE YOU'LL WORK IT OUT
WHY'D HE EVEN COME OVER?
LEAVING?
JUNKO'LL BE ON MY ASS IF I DON'T GET BACK SOON
YOU'RE TOGETHER EVEN AT WORK PEOPLE MIGHT THINK SOMETHIN'S GOIN' ON BETWEEN YOU TWO.
WASN'T A BIT PENSIVE, THOUGH
SHIKAZAWA'S A FREE-LANCE WRITER
OH YEAH HOW'D IT GO YESTERDAY?
IT'S BEEN 10 YEARS SINCE WE MET IN HIGH SCHOOL.
NAOKI'S NOW A GRAPHIC DESIGNER.
AND HE'S COME OUT
SAY WHAT?
AN OFFICE?
AND ME, WELL...
OH.
SO WHERE SHOULD WE LOOK TODAY?
IT'S EXPENSIVE BUT WE CAN DO IT TOGETHER
YEP I'M QUITTING MY JOB AND SETTING UP AN OFFICE WITH CHIKA.

WHAT'S WRONG?
NOWHERE TO GO?
I WAS TOO EMBARRASSED...
TO ASK FOR MONEY
WHO KNOWS
JUNKO'LL BE MAD
IF ONLY.
25 YEARS OLD. NO REAL PROSPECTS.
AND NOW DUMPED BY THE WOMAN WHO SUPPORTED ME
MAYBE IF SHE HADN'T THROWN ME OUT
HA HA HA NOW WHAT?

=SIGH=

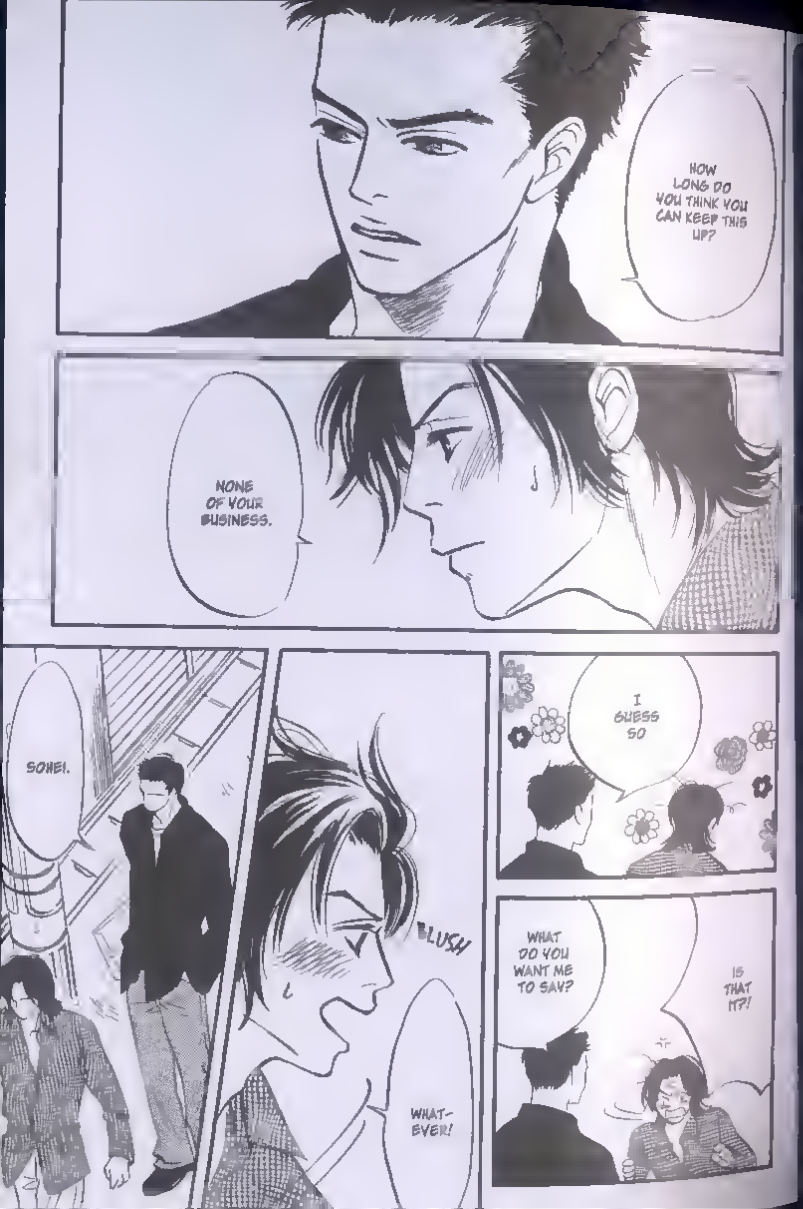

WHAT AM I DOING?


GOING GYM
ボクシングジム
MITA GOKING
THUD
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?

KCHAK
THANKS
I'M GOING TO WORK
IF YOU LEAVE, PUT THE KEY IN THE MAILBOX

SNICKER

HA HA HA. I TOLD YOU!
GOOD LOOKS ARE ALL YOU NEED TO GET BY!
THOSE IDIOTS SLAVE AWAY ALL DAY WORKING.
HA HA HA!

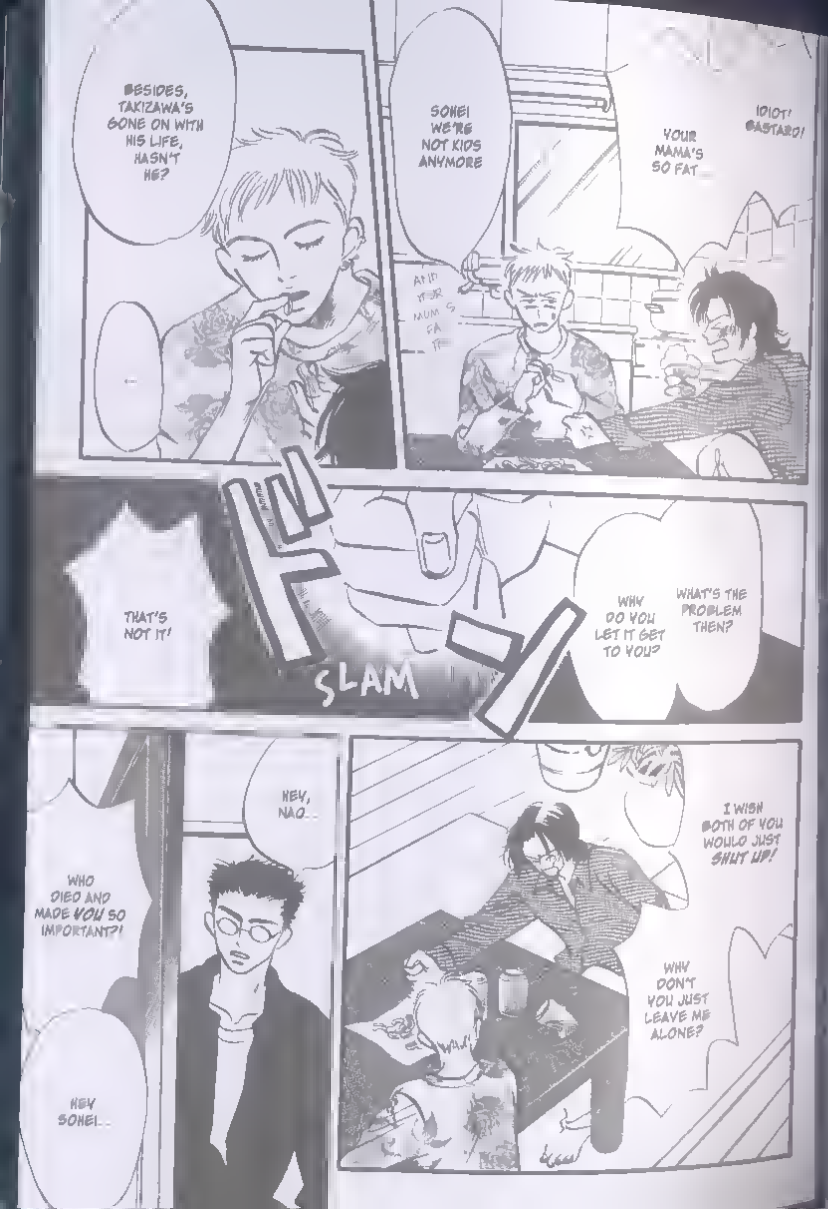

HOW LONG DO YOU THINK YOU CAN KEEP THIS UP?
NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.
SOHEI.
BLUSH
WHAT-EVER!
I GUESS SO
WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO SAY?
IS THAT IT?

UP TO NO GOOD, I'M SURE
LOOKING FOR AN OFFICE WHAT ABOUT YOU?
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?
WHAT'S WITH HIM?
WELL EXCUSE ME. I'VE GOT A NEW GIRL WHO LIVES NEARBY
IN A PLACE IT TOOK TWO TRAINS TO GET TO?
UH, ME?
I'M JUST OUT FOR A WALK.

GO AHEAD, HIT ME
DO IT.
GET IT ALL OUT NOW.
THAT GUY YOU HURT BACK THEN. WHAT WAS HIS NAME? TAKIZAWA?
I DO KNOW YOU'RE LIKE AN OPEN BOOK
WHAT? STOP ACTING LIKE YOU KNOW
AND BESIDES, IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'RE DOING ANYTHING ELSE
THERE'S STILL TIME TO QUALIFY AS A PRO IF YOU START NOW
SCREW YOU.
YOU SHOULD START BOXING AGAIN

SHIT!
SHIT!
SHIT!
SHIT!
SHIT!

SHUT UP!!
DID YOU THINK IT WOULD MAKE UP FOR THAT?
SHUT UP!
YOU QUIT RIGHT AFTER IT HAPPENED
YOU'RE SCARED, AREN'T YOU?

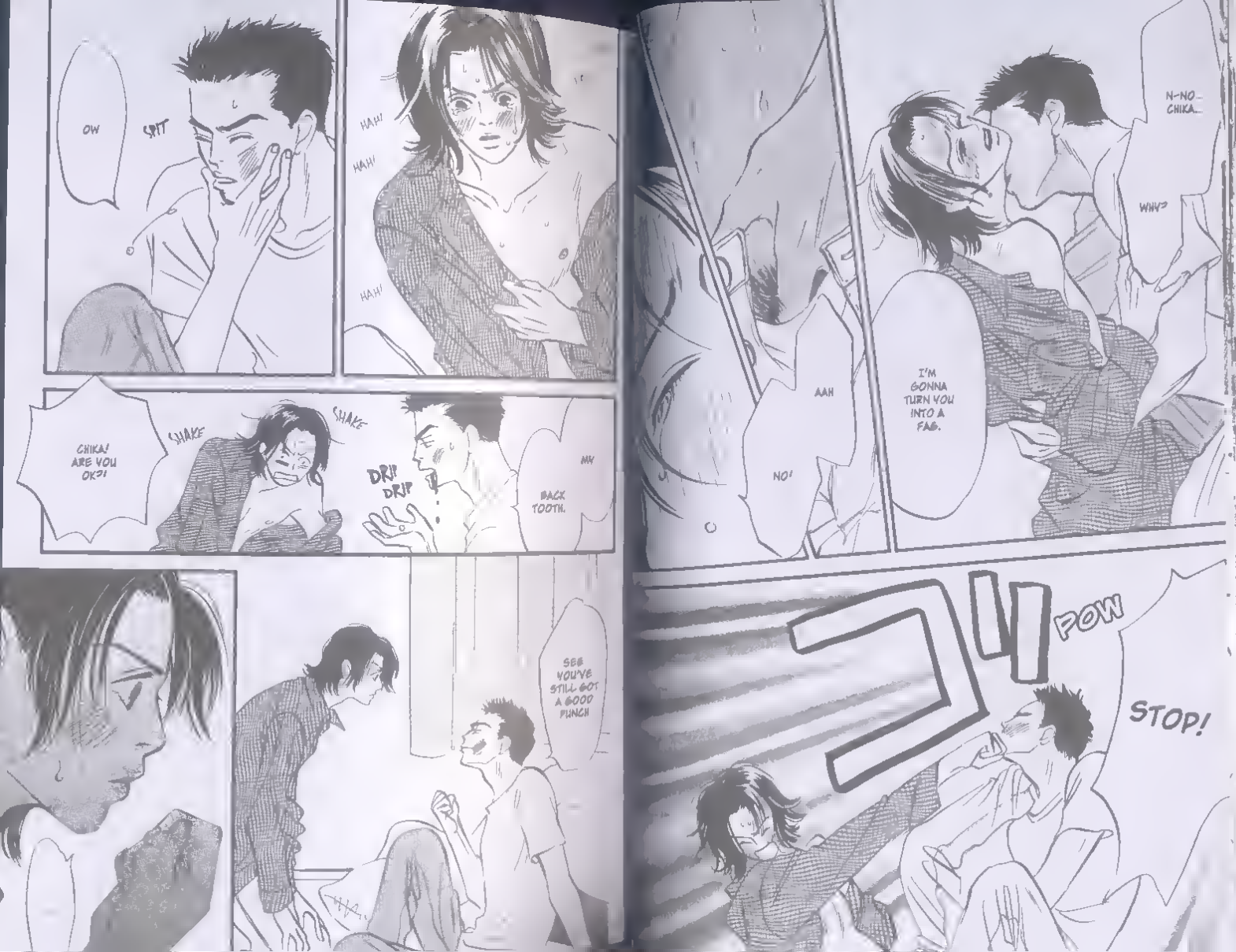

BESIDES, TAKIZAWA'S GONE ON WITH HIS LIFE, HASN'T HE?
SONEI WE'RE NOT KIDS ANYMORE
YOUR MAMA'S SO FAT
IDIOT! BASTARD!
AND YOUR MUM'S FA IT!
THAT'S NOT IT!
SLAM
WHY DO YOU LET IT GET TO YOU?
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM THEN?
KEV, NAO...
WHO DIED AND MADE YOU SO IMPORTANT?!
KEV SONEI...
I WISH BOTH OF YOU WOULD JUST SHUT UP!
WHY DON'T YOU JUST LEAVE ME ALONE?

SHIT!
SHIT!
STUPID HIKAZAWA!

STOP!
CHIKA STOP IT NOT IN THE FACE!
SLAP
PUNCH
SLAP
WHAT A PRINCE
I GUESS YOU REALLY ARE SCREWING HIM
APOLOGIZE TO NAOKI
HEY!
NO ONE SAID ANYTHING LIKE THAT
YOU GUYS ARE JUST MAKING FUN OF ME!
LIKE I'M TRASH!
DON'T TOUCH ME, YOU FAG!
SLAP
UH...

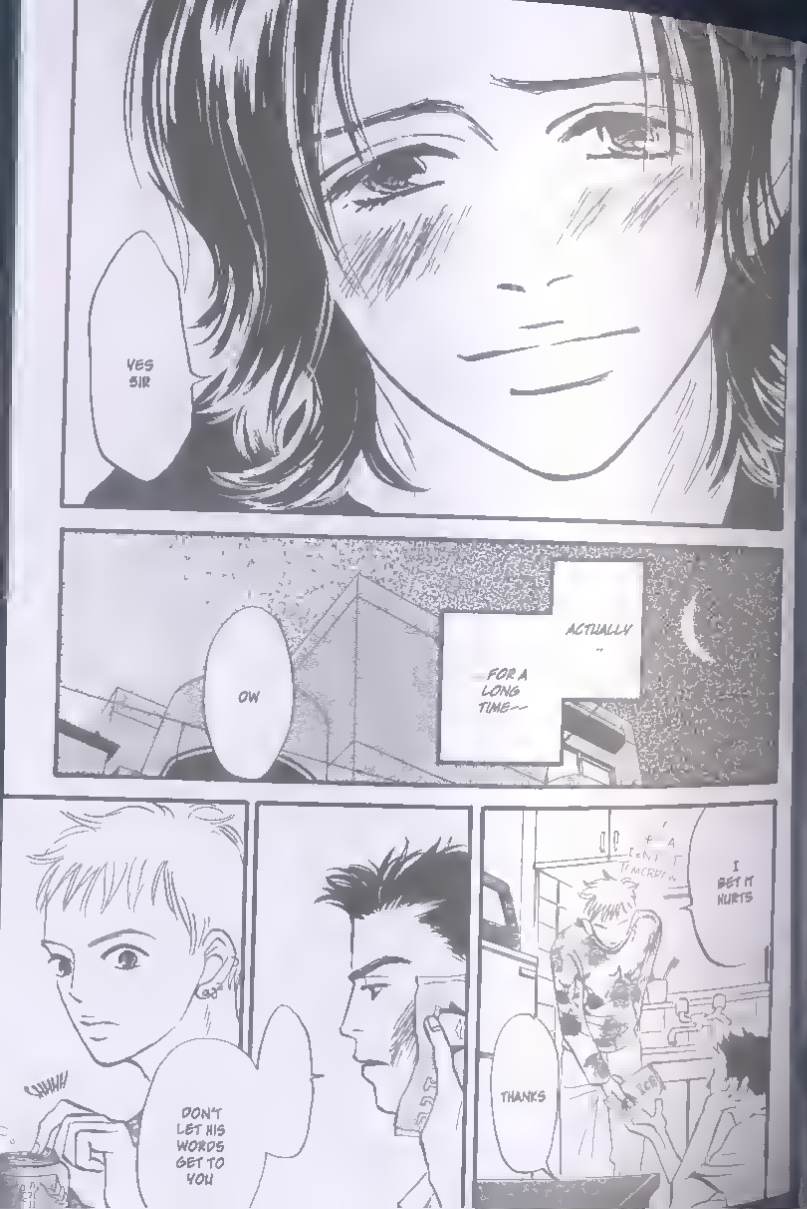
CHIKA.
!
NNN
MMM.
CHI
KA.
STOP
IT!
WHAT'RE
YOU
DOING?

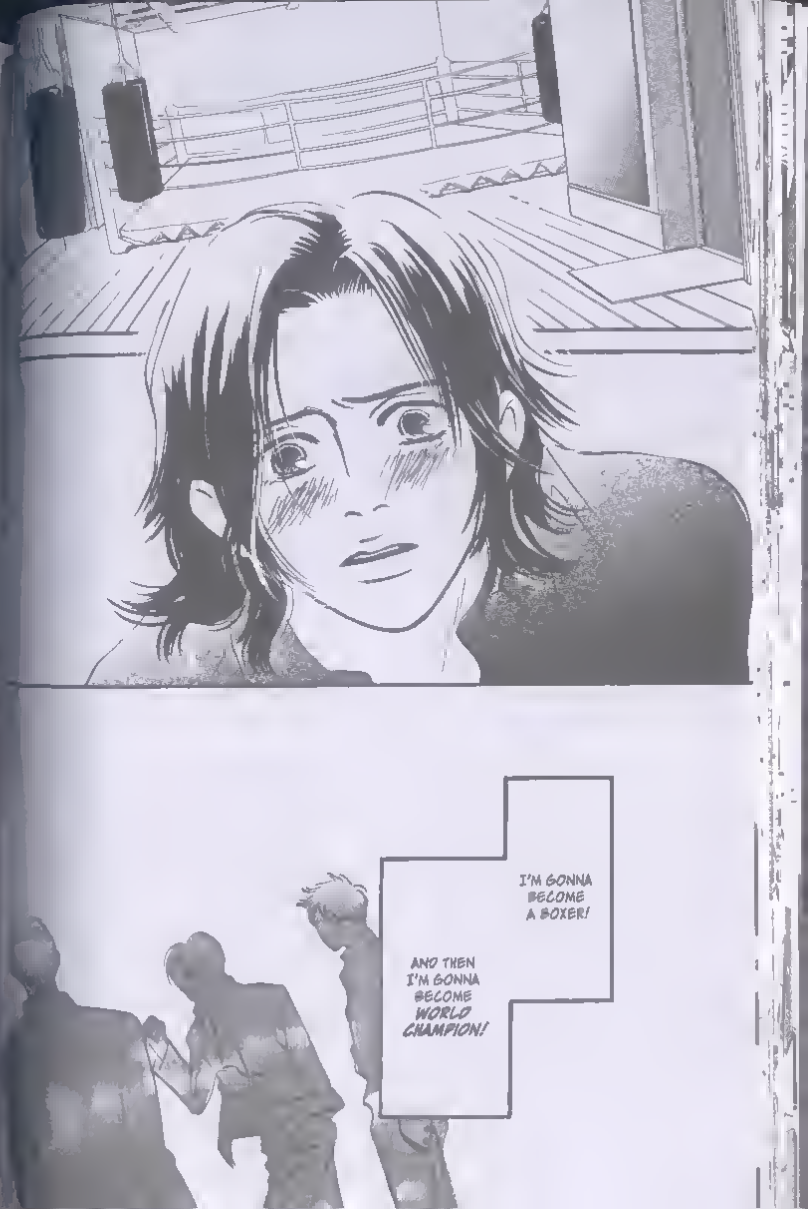
WHAT'RE
YOU
GONNA
DO?
WHAT?!
NAOKI! I'M
BORROWING
YOUR
BEDROOM!
!
SLAM
YOU
THINK
YOU FEEL
LIKE TRASH
NOW
YOU
CAN'T BE
SERIOUS!
CLICK

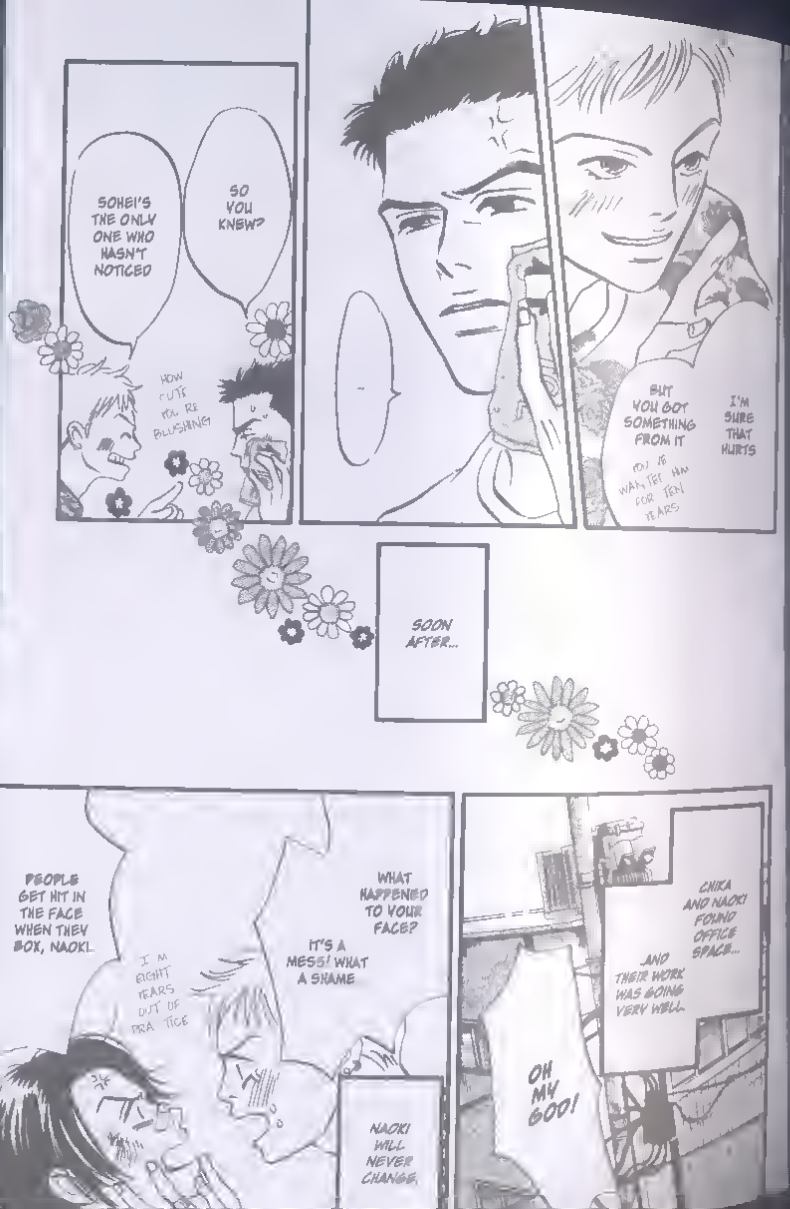

OW
SPIT
HAH!
HAH!
HAH!
CHIKA! ARE YOU OK?!
SHAKE
SHAKE
DRIP
DRIP
MY BACK TOOTH.
SEE YOU'VE STILL GOT A GOOD PUNCH
N-NO... CHIKA...
WHY?
I'M GONNA TURN YOU INTO A FAG.
AAH
NO!
POW
STOP!

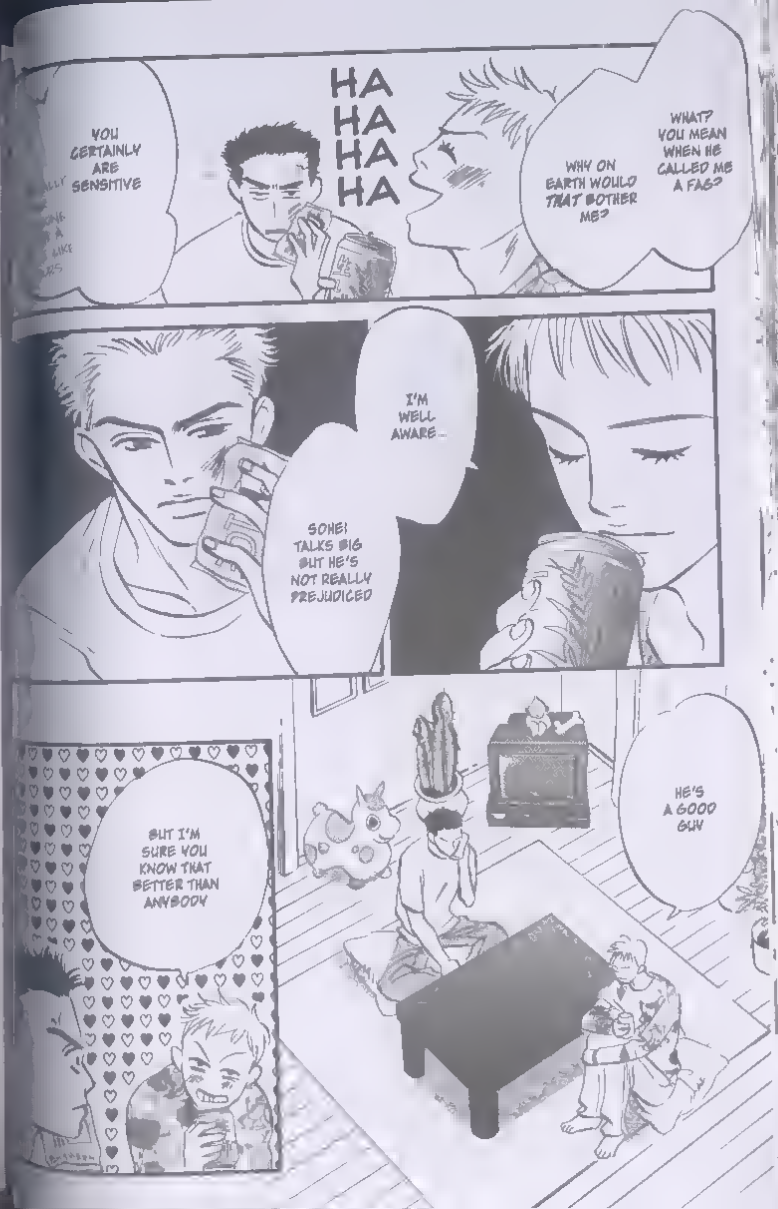
EXCUSE ME HE'D LIKE TO SIGN UP.
CHI...
CHIKA...
YOU WANNA BOX, DO YOU?
YOU THERE.
CHIKA!
HAVE FUN

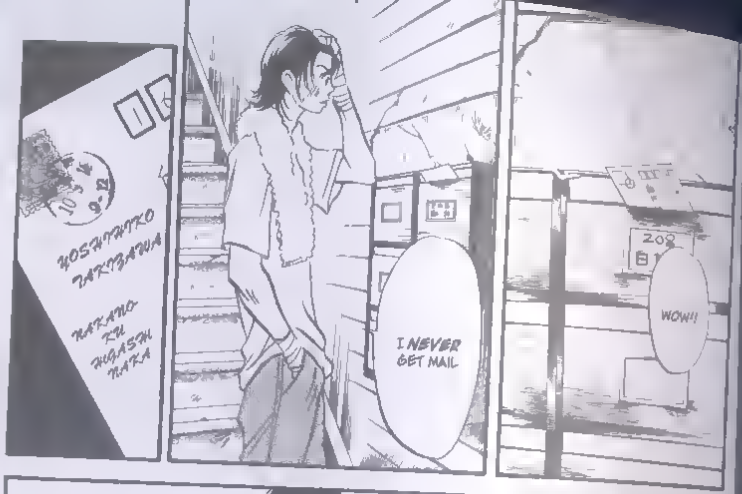
ばん
SLAM
BAM
ドン
BAM
CHIKA! OPEN UP!
YOU'RE BEING STUPID!
WHO'S THERE ENTRY
CHIKA!
HUH?
WHERE'RE YOU GOING?
WE HAVE TO FIX YOUR TOOTH
ボクシ

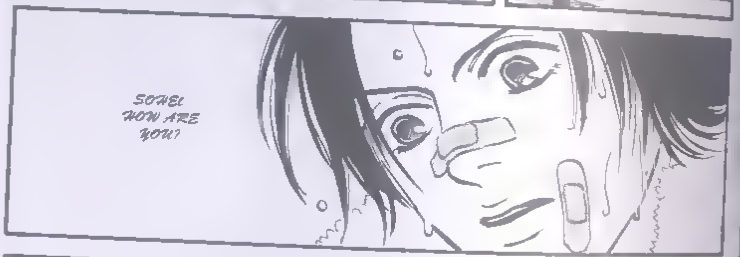

YES SIR
OW
ACTUALLY ...
FOR A LONG TIME~
I GET MY HURTS
THANKS
DON'T LET HIS WORDS GET TO YOU


I'M GONNA BECOME A BOXER!
AND THEN I'M GONNA BECOME WORLD CHAMPION!

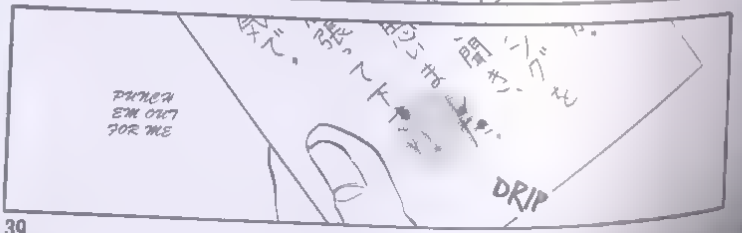

SOHEI'S THE ONLY ONE WHO HASN'T NOTICED
SO YOU KNEW?
HOW CUTE YOU'RE BLUSHING!
BUT YOU GOT SOMETHING FROM IT
YOU'VE WANTED HIM FOR TEN YEARS
I'M SURE THAT HURTS
SOON AFTER...
PEOPLE GET HIT IN THE FACE WHEN THEY BOX, NAOKI.
I'M RIGHT YEARS OUT OF PRACTICE
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FACE?
IT'S A MESS! WHAT A SHAME
NAOKI WILL NEVER CHANGE.
CHIKA AND NAOKI FOUND OFFICE SPACE...
AND THEIR WORK WAS GOING VERY WELL.
OH MY GOD!

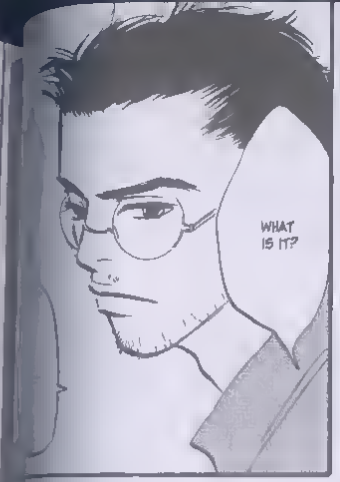

HAHAHAHA
YOU CERTAINLY ARE SENSITIVE
WHY ON EARTH WOULD THAT BOTHER ME?
WHAT? YOU MEAN WHEN HE CALLED ME A FAG?
I'M WELL AWARE...
SOHEI TALKS BIG BUT HE'S NOT REALLY PREJUDICED
BUT I'M SURE YOU KNOW THAT BETTER THAN ANYBODY
HE'S A GOOD GUY


YOSHIHIKO TAKIGAWA
NAKANO-KU HIGASHI NAKA
I NEVER GET MAIL
WOW!!

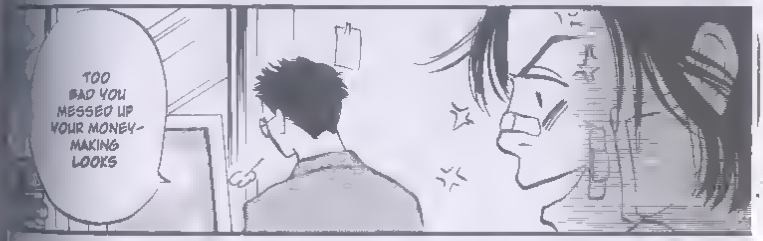

SOHEI HOW ARE YOU?

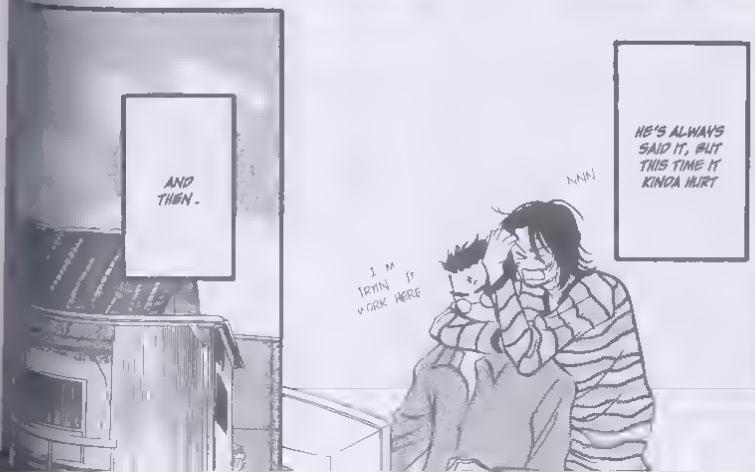
I COULDN'T BE HAPPIER
I'VE HEARD THAT YOU STARTED BOXING AGAIN

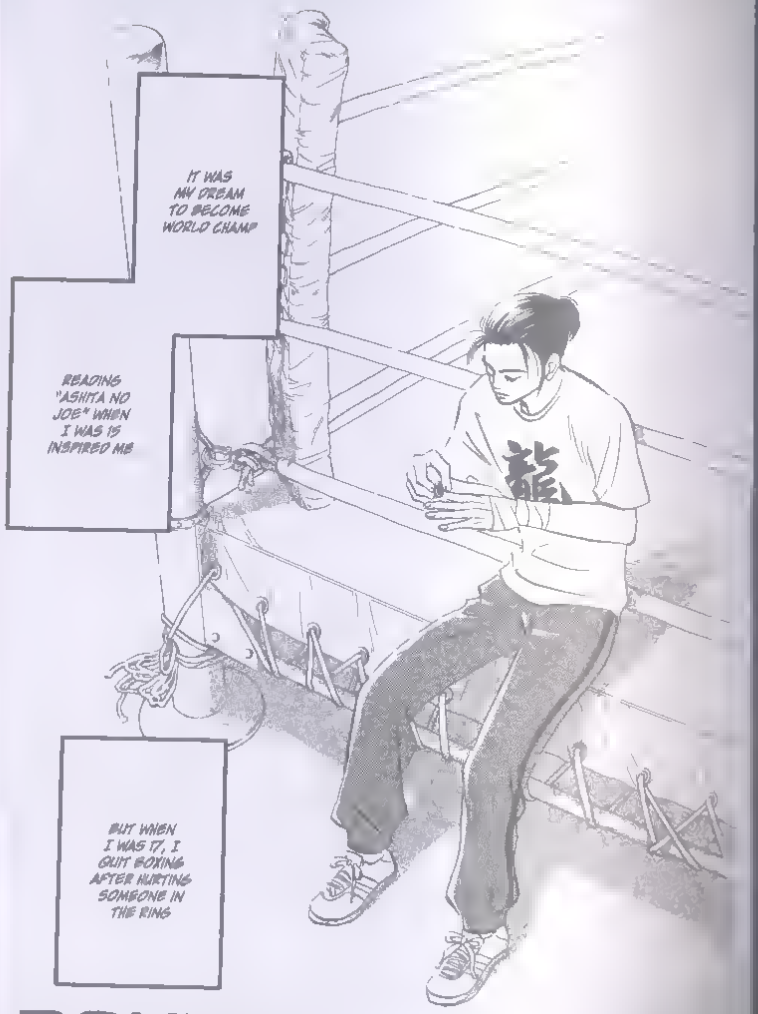

PUNCH 'EM OUT FOR ME
DRIP


WHAT IS IT?

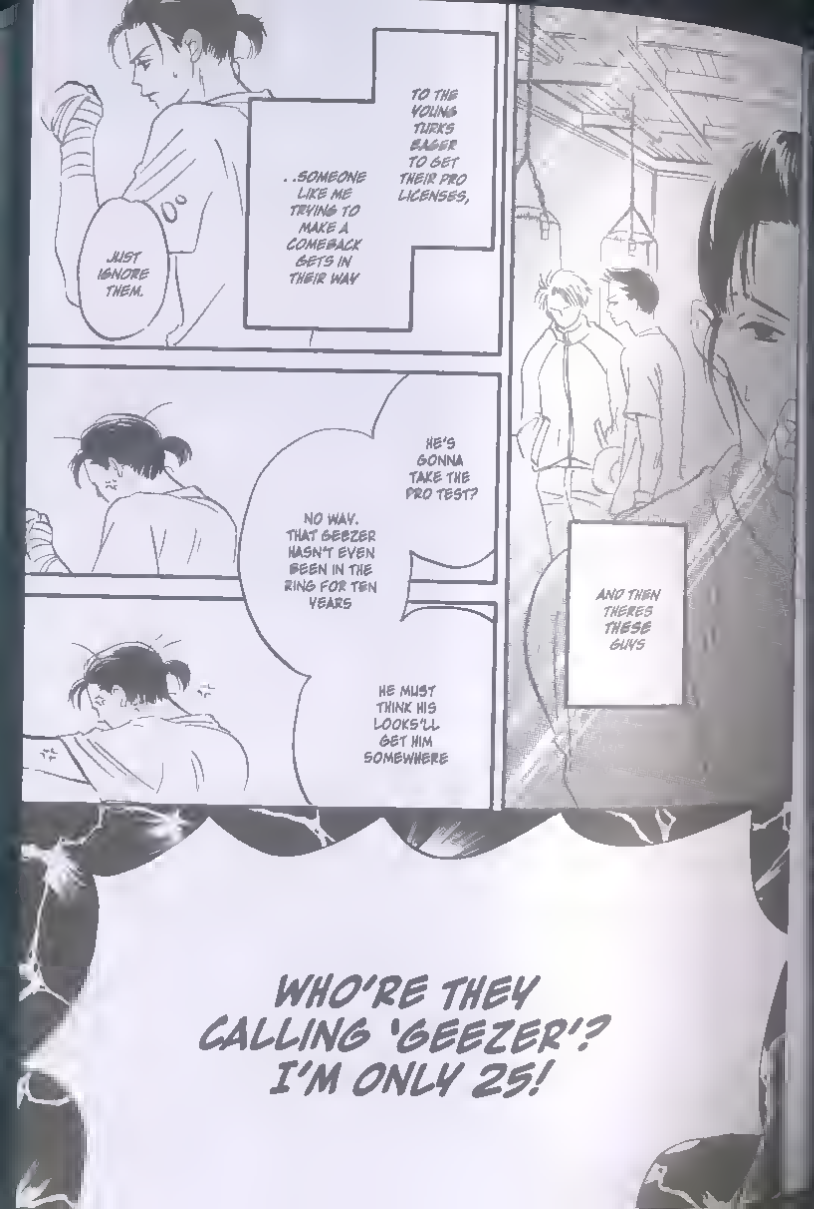
AND YET..
-I DIDN'T WANT CHIKA TO SEE.

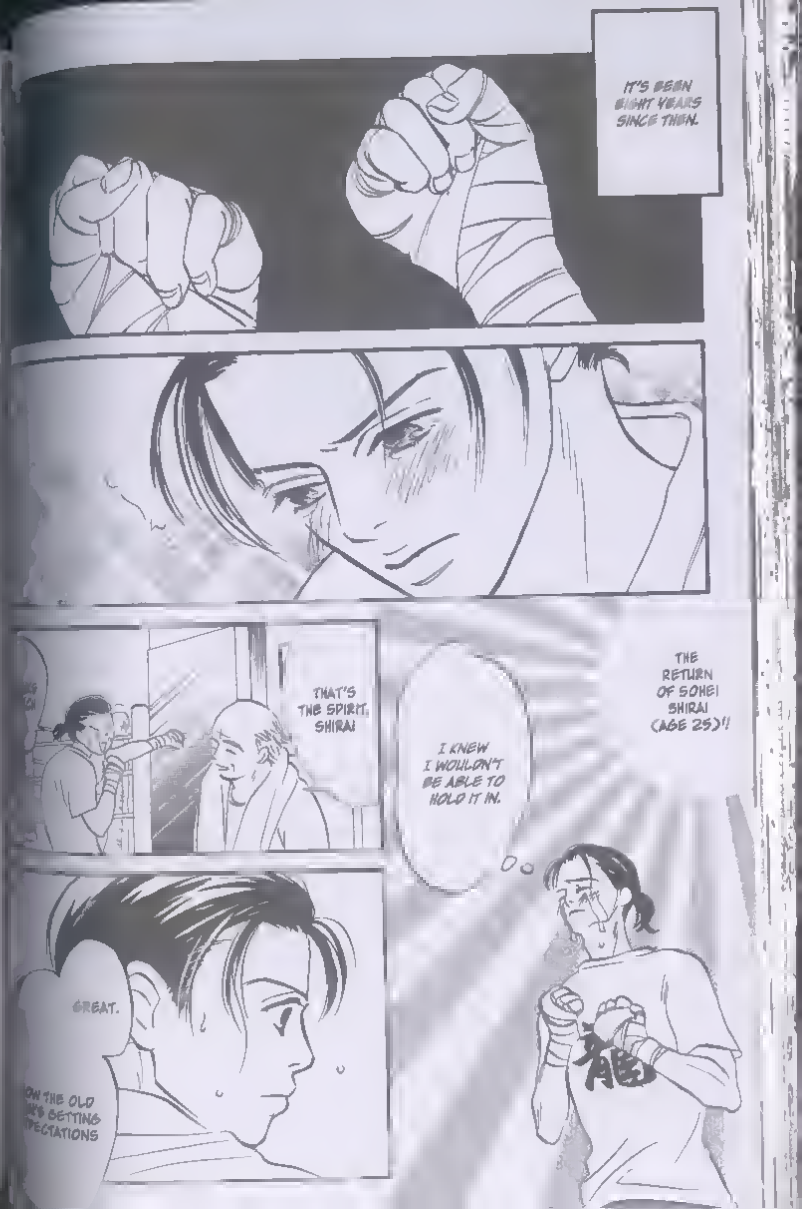

TOO BAD YOU MESSED UP YOUR MONEY-MAKING LOOKS


AND THEN..
HE'S ALWAYS SAID IT, BUT THIS TIME IT KINDA HURT
MAN
I'M TRYIN' IT WORK HERE


IT WAS MY DREAM TO BECOME WORLD CHAMP
READING "ASHITA NO JOE" WHEN I WAS 15 INSPIRED ME
BUT WHEN I WAS 17, I QUIT BOXING AFTER HURTING SOMEONE IN THE RING

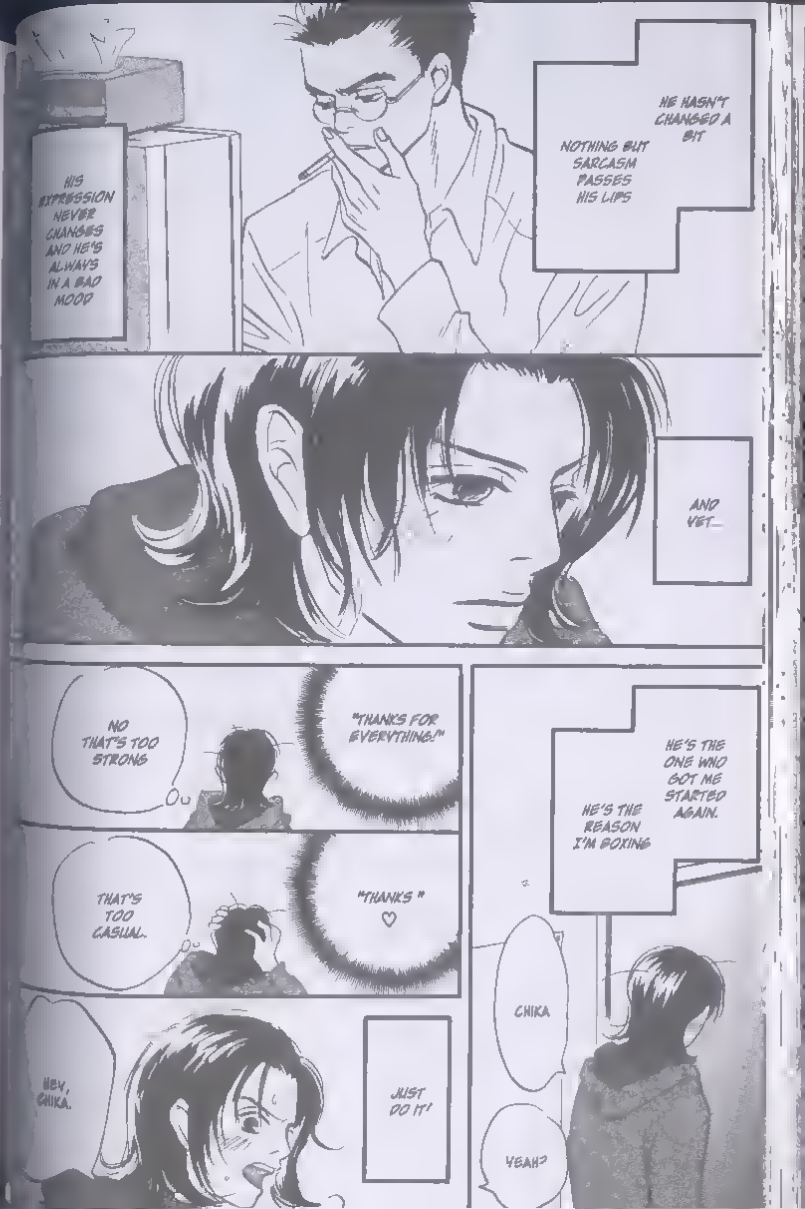
ROUND·2

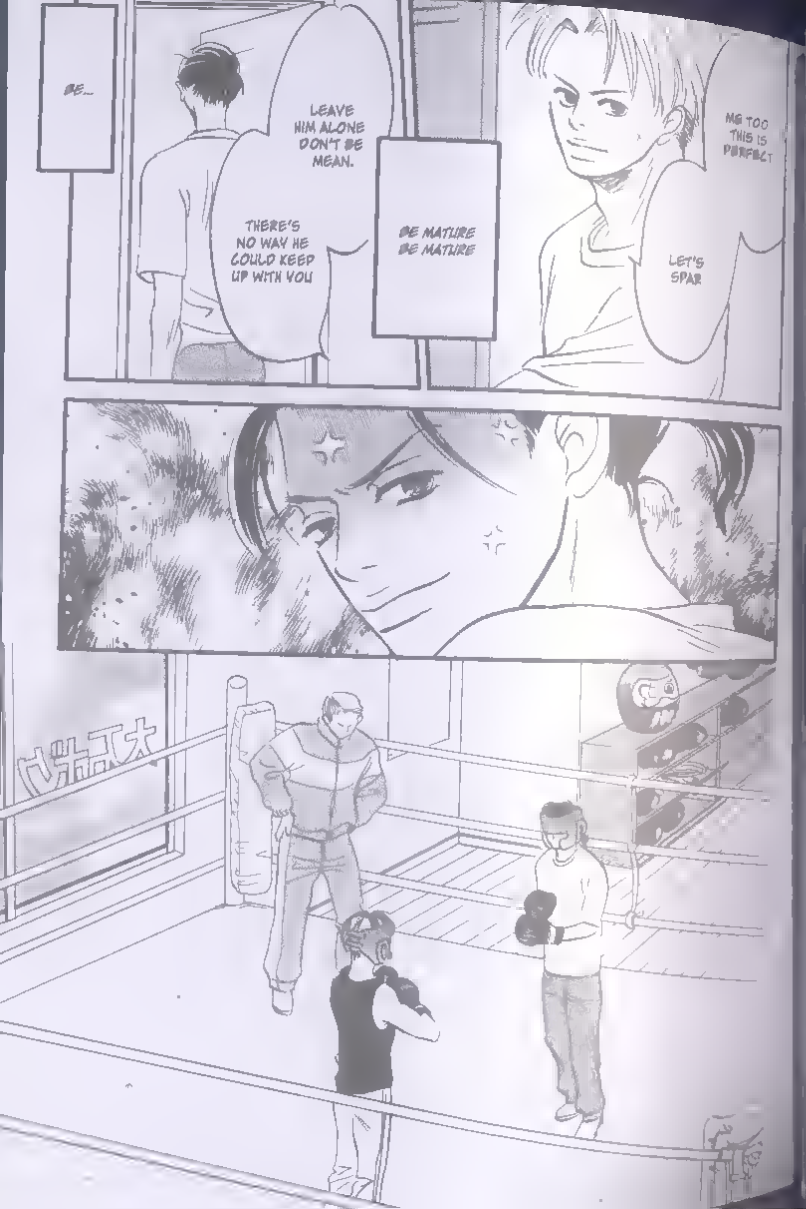

JUST IGNORE THEM.
..SOMEONE LIKE ME TRYING TO MAKE A COMEBACK GETS IN THEIR WAY
TO THE YOUNG TURKS EAGER TO GET THEIR PRO LICENSES,
HE'S GONNA TAKE THE PRO TEST?
NO WAY. THAT GEEZER HASN'T EVEN BEEN IN THE RING FOR TEN YEARS
HE MUST THINK HIS LOOKS'LL GET HIM SOMEWHERE
AND THEN THERES THESE GUYS
WHO'RE THEY CALLING 'GEEZER'? I'M ONLY 25!


IT'S BEEN EIGHT YEARS SINCE THEN.
THAT'S THE SPIRIT, SHIRAI
I KNEW I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO HOLD IT IN.
THE RETURN OF SOHEI SHIRAI (AGE 25)!
GREAT.

THANKS A LOT, JEEZ.
click
BE CAREFUL WITH YOUR FACE SOHEI!
YOU KNOW IT'S ALL YOU'VE GOT GOING FOR YOU
click
click
click
click
click
HOW... AWK-WARD
ALONE WITH CHIKA.
I'LL BE CAREFUL, THANKS
DON'T LET ME GET IN YOUR WAY
I COULD JUST KILL HIM
MY EDITOR'S AN IDIOT LIKE YOU
ARTICLE FOR A NEW FASHION MAGAZINE
HE'D BETTER NOT TURN IT DOWN
UH.. YOU LOOK REALLY BUSY THERE, CHIKA.
WHACHA WORKIN' ON?
HAH
HAH
HAH
WELL, IN THE EYES OF A TEENAGER, YOU ARE OLD
1ST SHUT UP
WHAT?!
OH MY LOOK AT THE TIME
DON'T TRY TO ESCAPE NAOKI!
OH YES.
IT IS
IS SO
IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE BRATS FIGHTING AT RECESS

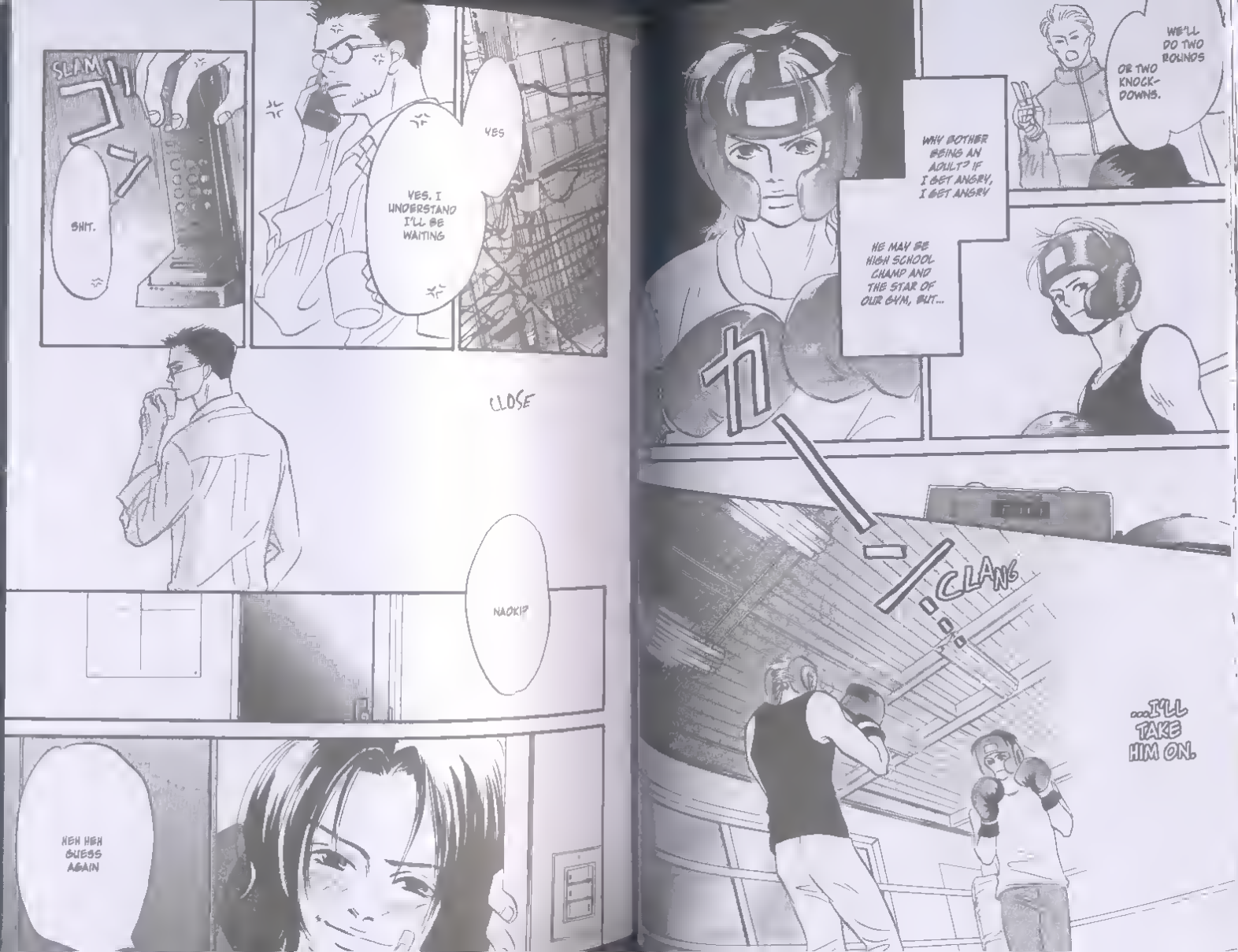
FLUSH
THANK YOU!
TOILET
SLAM
YOU'RE STILL HERE?
WHATEVER!
SLAM
WHAT? I NEED YOUR PERMISSION TO CRAP?
CHIKA! YOU WERE IN THE BATHROOM?!


HIS EXPRESSION NEVER CHANGES AND HE'S ALWAYS IN A BAD MOOD
NOTHING BUT SARCASM PASSES HIS LIPS
HE HASN'T CHANGED A BIT
AND YET...
NO THAT'S TOO STRONG
"THANKS FOR EVERYTHING!"
THAT'S TOO CASUAL.
"THANKS" ♡
HEY, CHIKA.
JUST DO IT!
HE'S THE ONE WHO GOT ME STARTED AGAIN.
HE'S THE REASON I'M BOXING
CHIKA
YEAH?


BE...
LEAVE HIM ALONE DON'T BE MEAN.
THERE'S NO WAY HE COULD KEEP UP WITH YOU
BE MATURE BE MATURE
NO TOO THIS IS PERFECT
LET'S SPAR

STUPID CHIKAZAWA
HE'S SO SELFISH
BONK
OUTTA THE WAY, GEEZER.

HEY YOU
REMEMBER, THEY'RE JUST KIDS
BE MATURE
PAY ATTENTION
HE'S HOPELESS
PROBABLY SO OLD HE'S GOING DEAF


SLAM
SHIT.
YES
YES. I UNDERSTAND I'LL BE WAITING
CLOSE
NAOKI?
HEH HEH GUESS AGAIN
WE'LL DO TWO ROUNDS OR TWO KNOCK-DOWNS.
WHY BOTHER BEING AN ADULT? IF I GET ANGRY, I GET ANGRY
HE MAY BE HIGH SCHOOL CHAMP AND THE STAR OF OUR GYM, BUT...
CLANG
...I'LL TAKE HIM ON.

CHIKA
GO HOME
I CAN'T BE A BOXER
I'M HOPE-LESS
I...
CHIKA
I HAVE A MEETING
YOU'RE JUST IN THE WAY
YOU STILL WORKING? ALL WORK AND NO PLAY
SHOO SHOO
OH, IT'S YOU.
DON'T ACT SO HAPPY TO SEE ME
DON'T BE SUCH A PRUDE
SHOULD A BOXER BE DRINKING?
NO
COME DRINK WITH ME
STOP BOTHERING ME.
I'M WORKING.

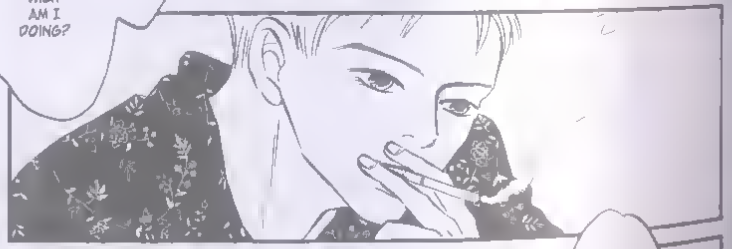
DON'T BE A BABY
GO HOME.
CHIKA.
YOU HAVE TO MAKE YOUR OWN DECISIONS
CHIKA!
HELP ME!
YOU'RE MY FRIEND!
SNAP
HELP ME, CHIKA.
YOU ALWAYS HELP ME
IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW HARD I PUNCH
IT HAS NO EFFECT
I CAN'T KEEP UP WITH THE KIDS
THEY'RE. THEY'RE TOO MUCH FOR ME
I'M 25.
THEY'RE DIFFERENT
I...
I'M AWARE OF THAT.
HELP
WHAT'D YOU EXPECT AFTER EIGHT YEARS?
THAT'S NOT IT.

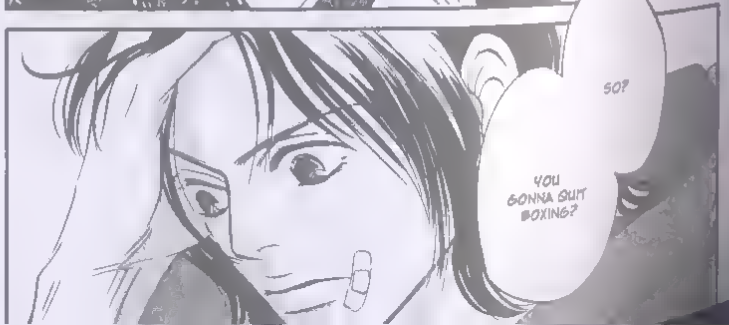
DING DONG
DING DONG
DING DONG
DING DONG
DING DONG
NNN.
JUST IGNORE IT
IS THAT THE DOOR?
SLAM
DO YOU KNOW WHAT TIME IT IS?
THIS BETTER BE GOOD SOHEI!
NOBODY
I'LL BE BACK IN A SEC
WHO IS IT?
HOW'D YOU KNOW IT WAS ME?
DING DONG
I'VE NEVER ONCE CONSIDERED YOU A FRIEND
SLAM

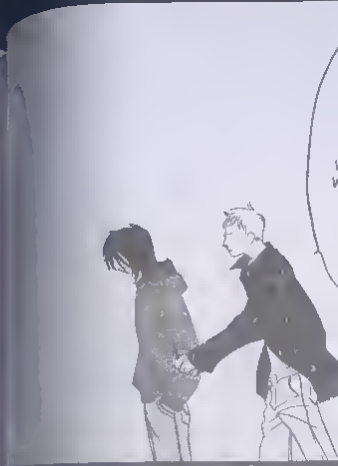
S-SORRY
SIGH

I'M SORRY
I'M TRYING TO BE SERIOUS HERE
MMPH
NAOKI!

I GUESS IT IS FUNNY
BUT


WHAT AM I DOING?

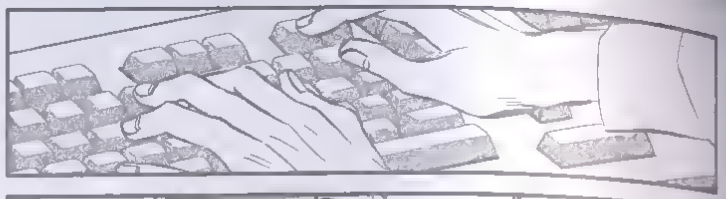

SO?
YOU GONNA QUIT BOXING?


WHAT'S WRONG?

I'M SORRY
I'LL COME BACK LATER
SOHBI!

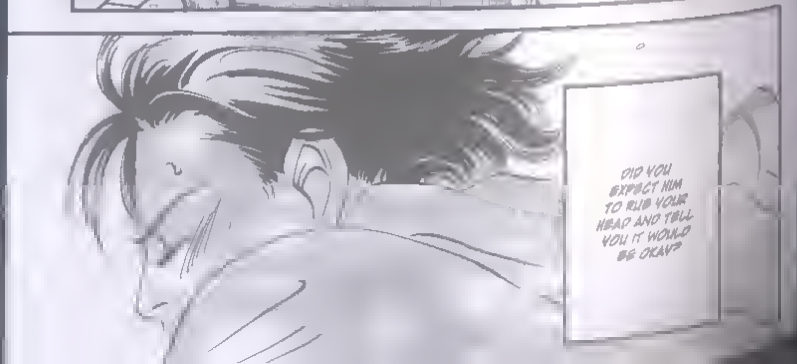
Denny's
A HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!

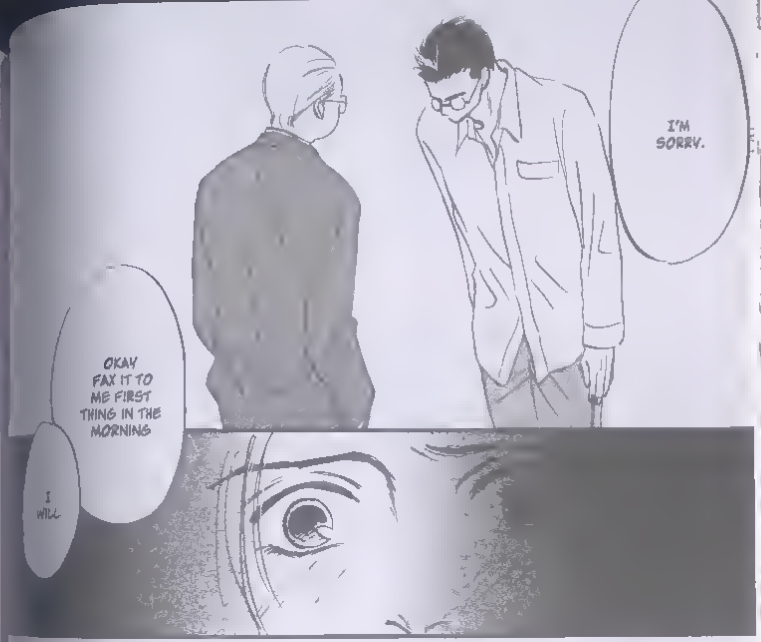
YOU CALL YOURSELF A WRITER?!
302
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT I SAY, NAOKI
I CAN'T GO IN
HE DIDN'T NOTICE HOW I DEFTLY CHANGED THE SUBJECT.
I DON'T WANT TO QUIT.
WHY DO YOU THINK I SENT YOU OUT TO COLLECT INFO?
CAN'T YOU WRITE ANY BETTER?!
OH...
THAT MUST BE THE USELESS EDITOR
YOU'RE RIGHT.
I'LL REDO IT RIGHT AWAY
WHAT?!
BUT HE HATES ME!
FINE TELL THAT TO CHIKA.

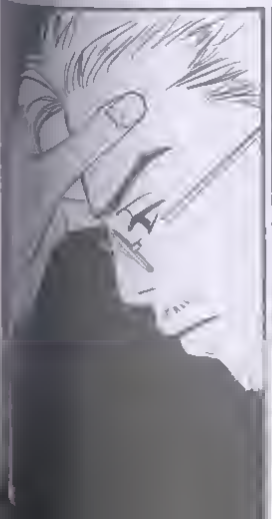


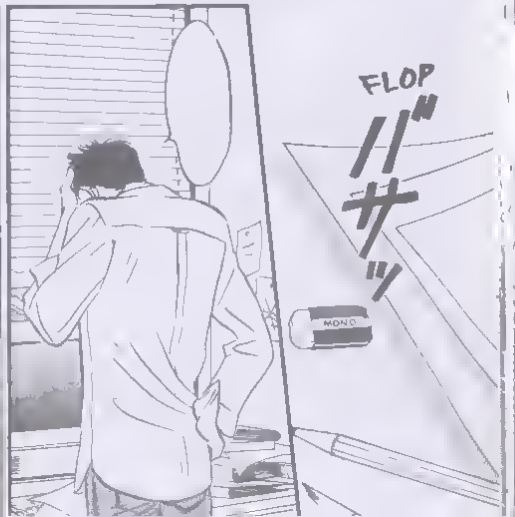
WHAT AM I DOING?

YOU'RE SO SELFISH...
AND ONLY WANT OTHERS TO HELP YOU
DO YOU THINK YOU'RE THE ONLY WITH TROUBLES?


DID YOU EXPECT HIM TO RUB YOUR HEAD AND TELL YOU IT WOULD BE OKAY?

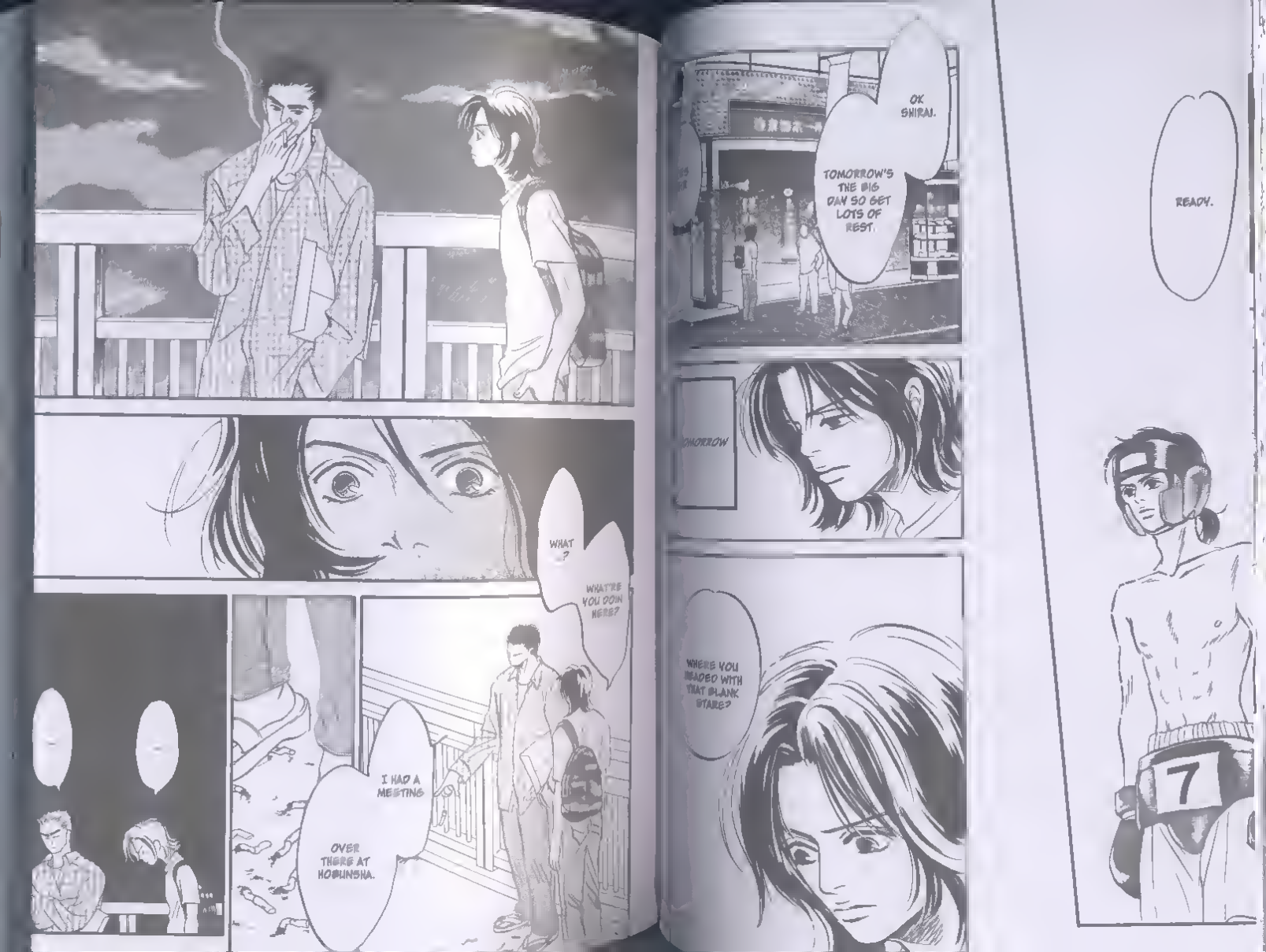

I'M SORRY.
OKAY FAX IT TO ME FIRST THING IN THE MORNING
I WILL

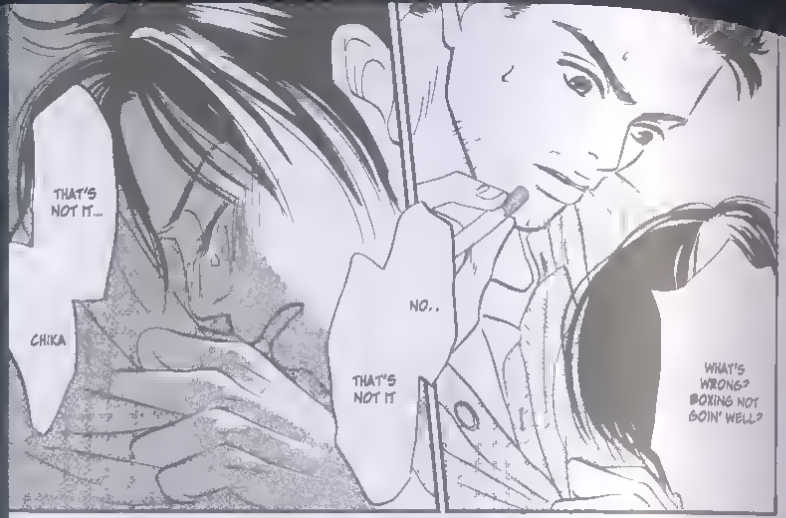



FLOP
バサッ
MONO

WHY DON'T YOU JUST QUIT?
WHAT'S THIS?
SHOULDN'T YOU TAKE IT EASY AT YOUR AGE?
I AGREED TO SPAR WITH YOU YESTERDAY YOU SHOULD RETURN THE FAVOR
WHAT?!
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU LET'S SPAR
I BEAT THE SHIT OUT OF YOU YESTERDAY
ARE YOU CRAZY?
BACK FOR MORE?
OISXI BOXIXG GYM
大石ボクシングジム
YM
YOU'RE HOPELESS NO WONDER EVERYONE HATES YOU

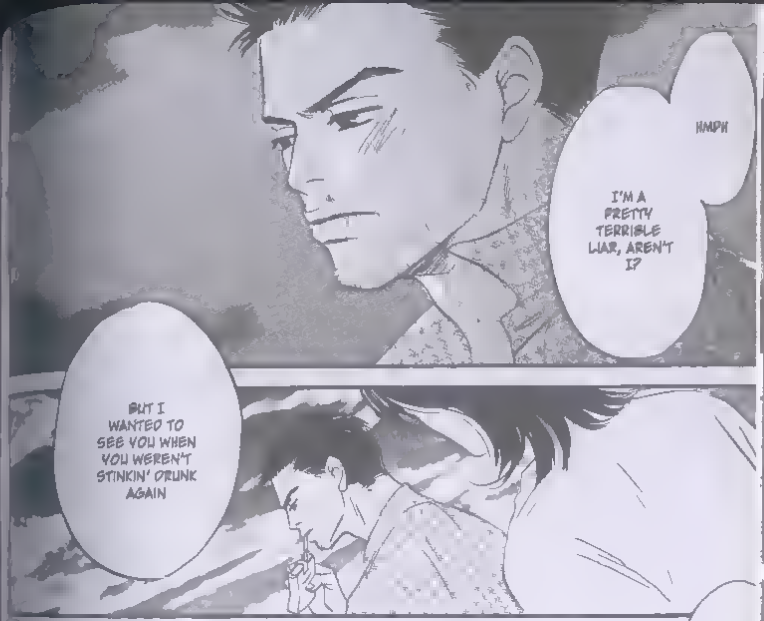
I CAN'T—
NOT JUST YET.
"I'VE NEVER ONCE CONSIDERED YOU A FRIEND."
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE YOU TALKED TO HIM
WHAT ABOUT CHIKA?
I STILL HAVE SO FAR TO GO
UH HUH
I KNOW I'LL PASS THE TEST...
THEN
AT THIS RATE, THERE'S NO WAY I'D BE ABLE TO TAKE HIM DOWN.
WHAT?!
NEXT UP...
NUMBERS 7 AND 18 TO THE RING
GOOD LUCK.
DO YOU HAVE A GOOD LUCK CHARM?
REMEMBER TO BREATHE DEEPLY IF YOU GET NERVOUS.
THE PRO TEST IS TOMORROW?
WHAT'S THAT?
IS THAT WHY YOU HAVEN'T COME BY LATELY?


OK SHIRAI.
TOMORROW'S THE BIG DAY SO GET LOTS OF REST.
READY.
TOMORROW
WHERE YOU HEADED WITH THAT BLANK STARE?
WHAT?
WHAT'RE YOU DOIN HERE?
I HAD A MEETING
OVER THERE AT HOSUNSHA.
7


THAT'S NOT IT...
CHIKA
NO..
THAT'S NOT IT
WHAT'S WRONG? BOXING NOT GOIN' WELL?

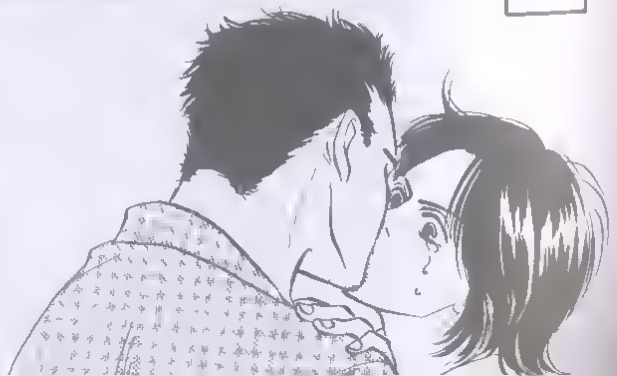
CHIKA.
CHIKA.

I...
I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T WANT TO SEE ME... EVER AGAIN


HMPH
I'M A PRETTY TERRIBLE LIAR, AREN'T I?
BUT I WANTED TO SEE YOU WHEN YOU WEREN'T STINKIN' DRUNK AGAIN

CHIKA!
SO, HOW ARE THINGS?
YOUR FACE SEEMS TO BE IN GOOD SHAPE.
CHIKA.

WHY?
WHY DOES IT TICKLE?
LIKE SANDPAPER...?
WHAT'S SO ROUGH?
HMM?



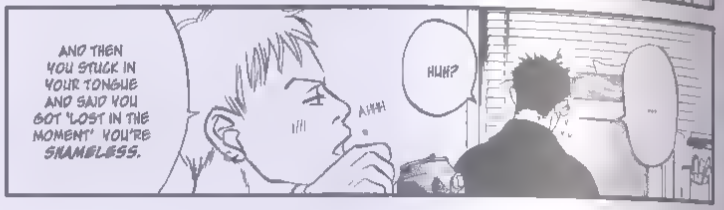
CHIKA KISSED ME!!!

CH-
CHIKA!!!
I'M SORRY
IT'S NOT THAT HEIN
WHAT?!
I GOT LOST IN THE MOMENT
SQUEEK
STOP SHRIEKING
YOU GOT LOST IN THE MOMENT AND STUCK YOUR TONGUE IN MY MOUTH?

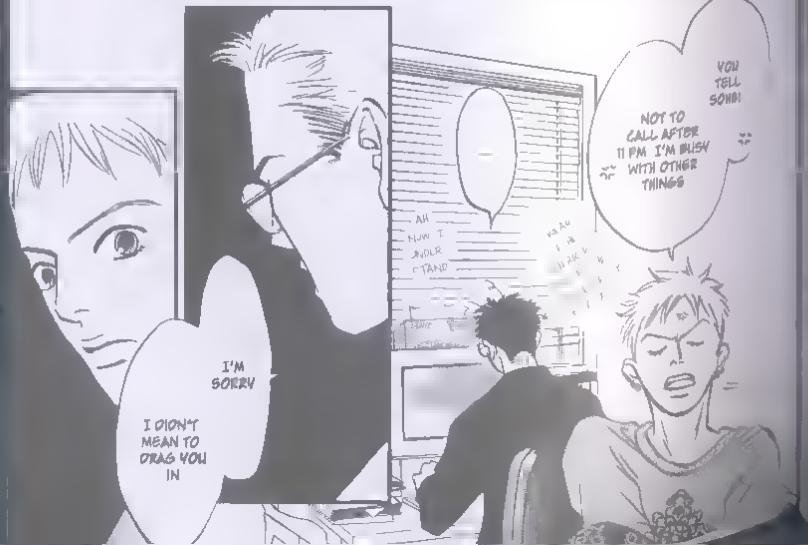
ROUND·3

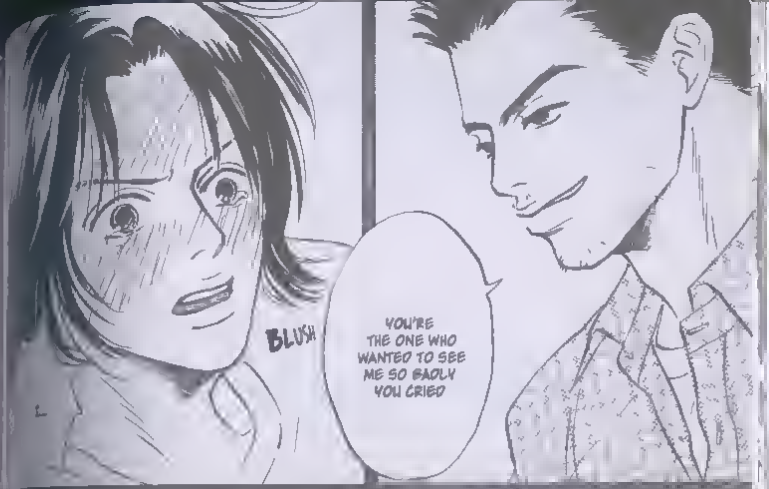
IT'S HIS BEARD!

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TOLD HIM YOU NEVER THOUGHT OF HIM AS A FRIEND
WHATEVER

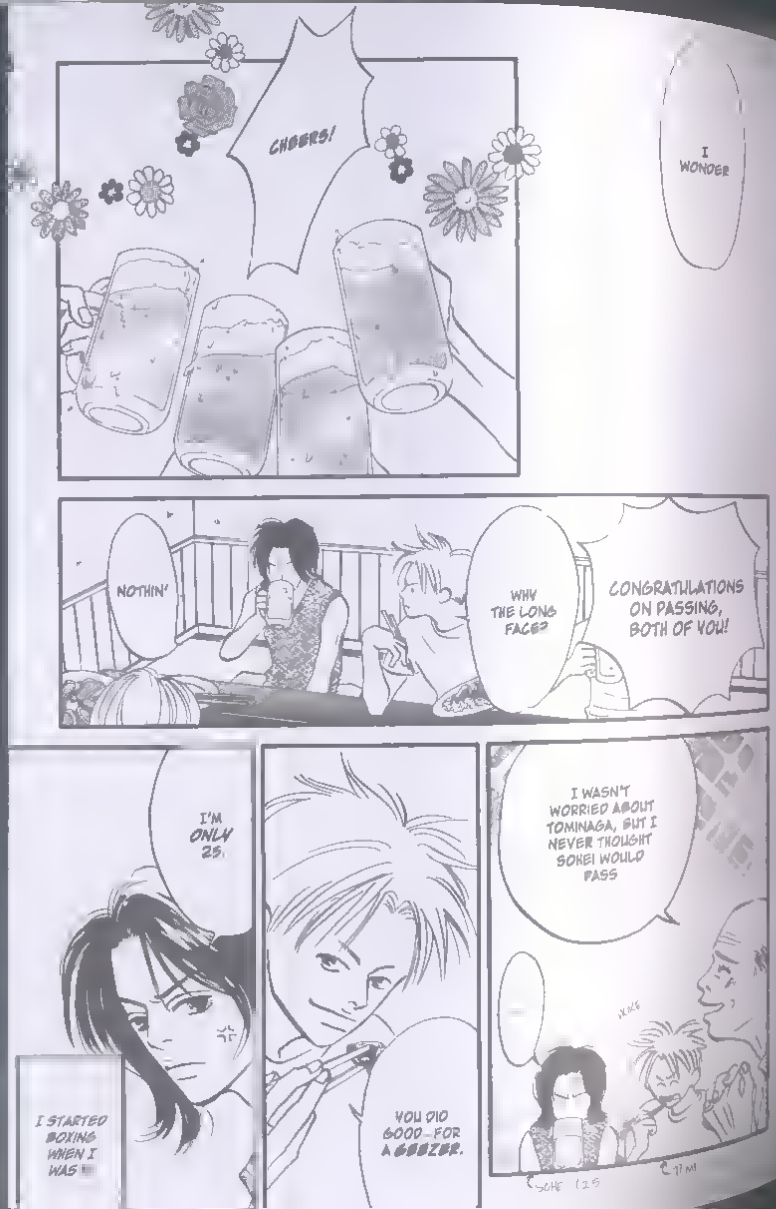

AND THEN YOU STUCK IN YOUR TONGUE AND SAID YOU GOT 'LOST IN THE MOMENT' YOU'RE SHAMELESS.
AHHH
HUH?

NAOKI KNOWS ALL.
HOW MUCH HAVE YOU HEARD?


I'M SORRY
I DIDN'T MEAN TO DRAG YOU IN
AH NUH I UNDER STAND
YOU TELL SOMB!
NOT TO CALL AFTER 11 PM I'M BUSY WITH OTHER THINGS

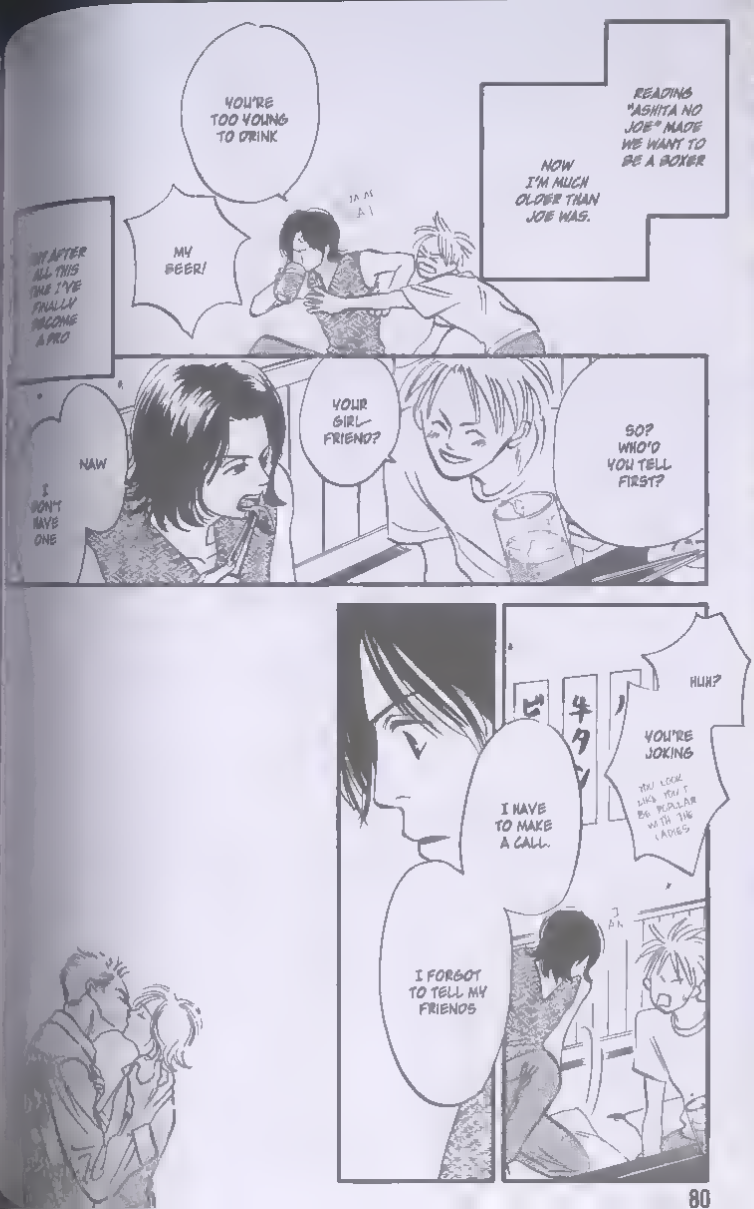

BLUSH
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WANTED TO SEE ME SO BADLY YOU CRIED

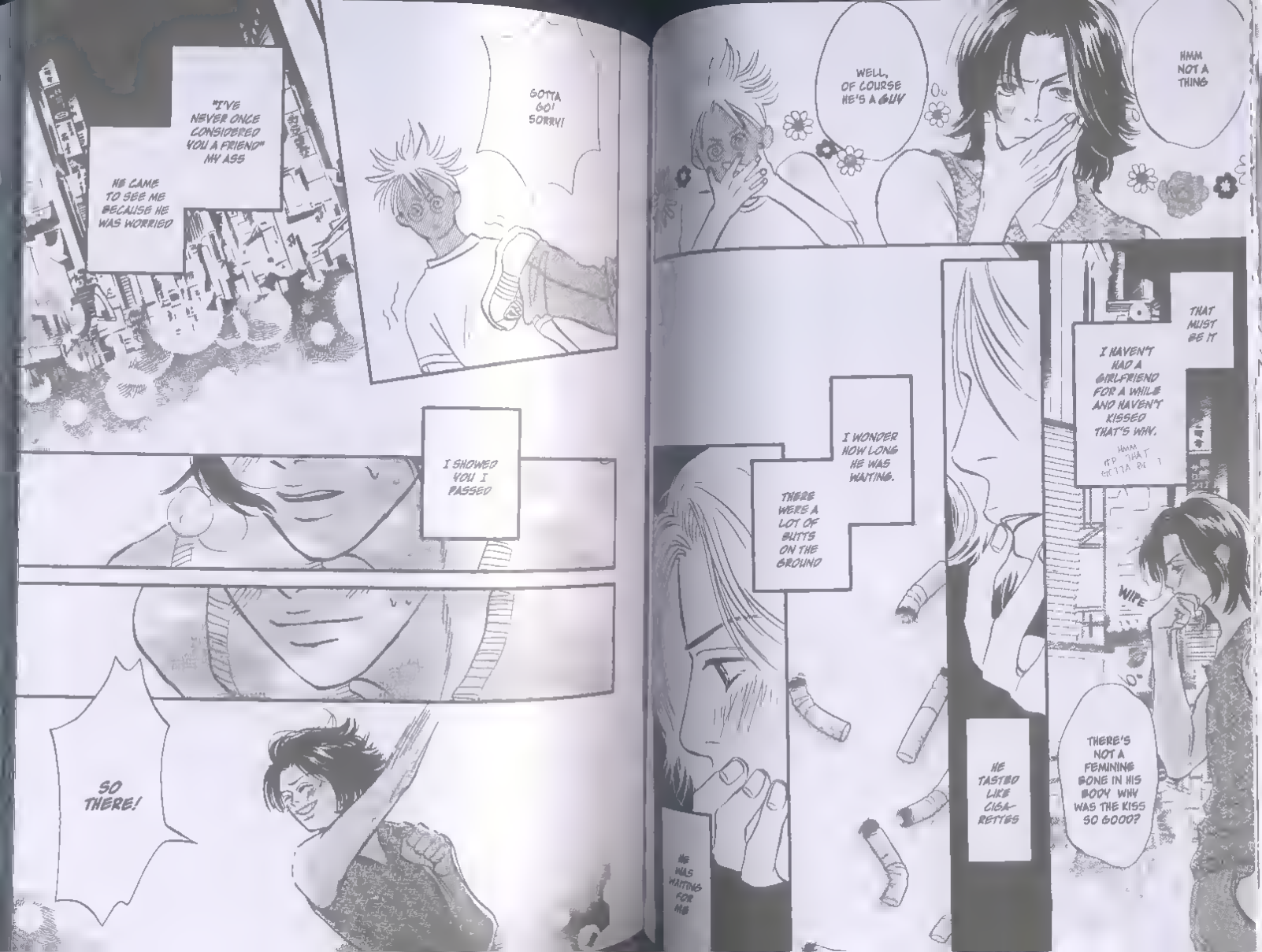
I NEVER WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN!!
HOW SILLY
YOU'D BE BACK IN ABX
HE SAID WHAT?


CHEERS!
I WONDER
NOTHIN'
WHY THE LONG FACE?
CONGRATULATIONS ON PASSING, BOTH OF YOU!
I'M ONLY 25.
I STARTED BOXING WHEN I WAS
YOU DID GOOD--FOR A GEEZER.
I WASN'T WORRIED ABOUT TOMINAGA, BUT I NEVER THOUGHT SOHEI WOULD PASS
SOHE 125
97 M1

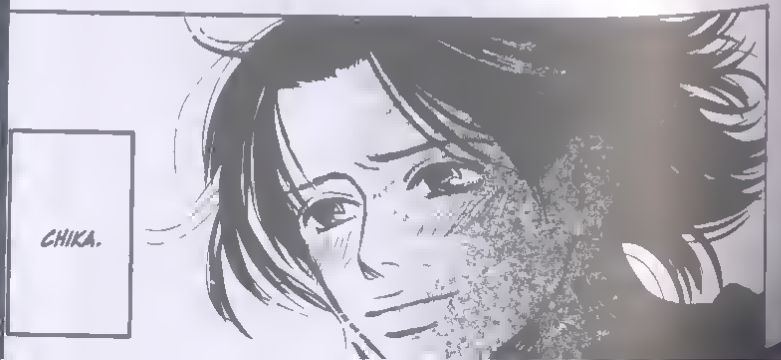
EWW!
WHY ARE YOU APOLOGIZING?
YOU HAVEN'T TOUCHED THE KEYBOARD FOR HOURS.
I'M WORKING
IF YOU FEEL BAD, JOIN ME
BUT..
IT DOESN'T REALLY BOTHER ME
I WONDER IF SOHEI PASSED

STUPID CHIKA.
IT'S ALL GOOD.
WHAT'S WRONG SHIRAI? YOU DRUNK?
HOW COME I HAVE TO BE THE ONLY ONE WHOSE HEART IS RACING?
KEEP IT A
SMOOCH
?
ALL THAT AND I DIDN'T EVEN GET TO MAKE THE CALL.


YOU'RE TOO YOUNG TO DRINK
MY BEER!
READING "ASHITA NO JOE" MADE ME WANT TO BE A BOXER
NOW I'M MUCH OLDER THAN JOE WAS.
BUT AFTER ALL THIS TIME I'VE FINALLY BECOME A PRO
NAW I DON'T HAVE ONE
YOUR GIRL-FRIEND?
SO? WHO'D YOU TELL FIRST?
I HAVE TO MAKE A CALL.
I FORGOT TO TELL MY FRIENDS
HUH?
YOU'RE JOKING
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'LL BE REGULAR WITH THE LADIES


"I'VE NEVER ONCE CONSIDERED YOU A FRIEND" MY ASS
HE CAME TO SEE ME BECAUSE HE WAS WORRIED
GOTTA GO! SORRY!
I SHOWED YOU I PASSED
SO THERE!
WELL, OF COURSE HE'S A GUY
HMM NOT A THING
I WONDER HOW LONG HE WAS WAITING.
THERE WERE A LOT OF BUTTS ON THE GROUND
HE WAS WAITING FOR ME
HE TASTED LIKE CIGARETTES
I HAVEN'T HAD A GIRLFRIEND FOR A WHILE AND HAVEN'T KISSED THAT'S WHY.
HMM IT'D THAT GETTA BE
THAT MUST BE IT
WIFE
THERE'S NOT A FEMININE BONE IN HIS BODY WHY WAS THE KISS SO GOOD?

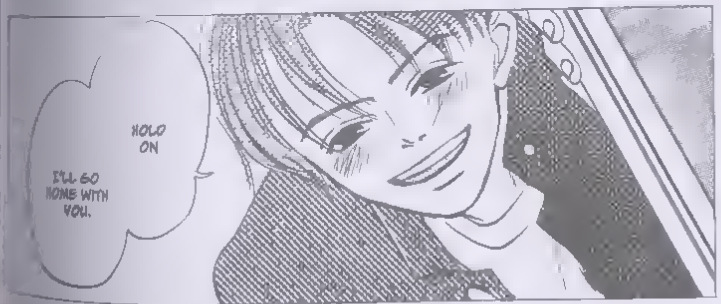
HOW COULD I HELP IT? I WAS SO HAPPY
SORRY, BUT I WANTED TO SEE YOU SO BAD THAT I COULD HAVE CRIED


CHIKA.

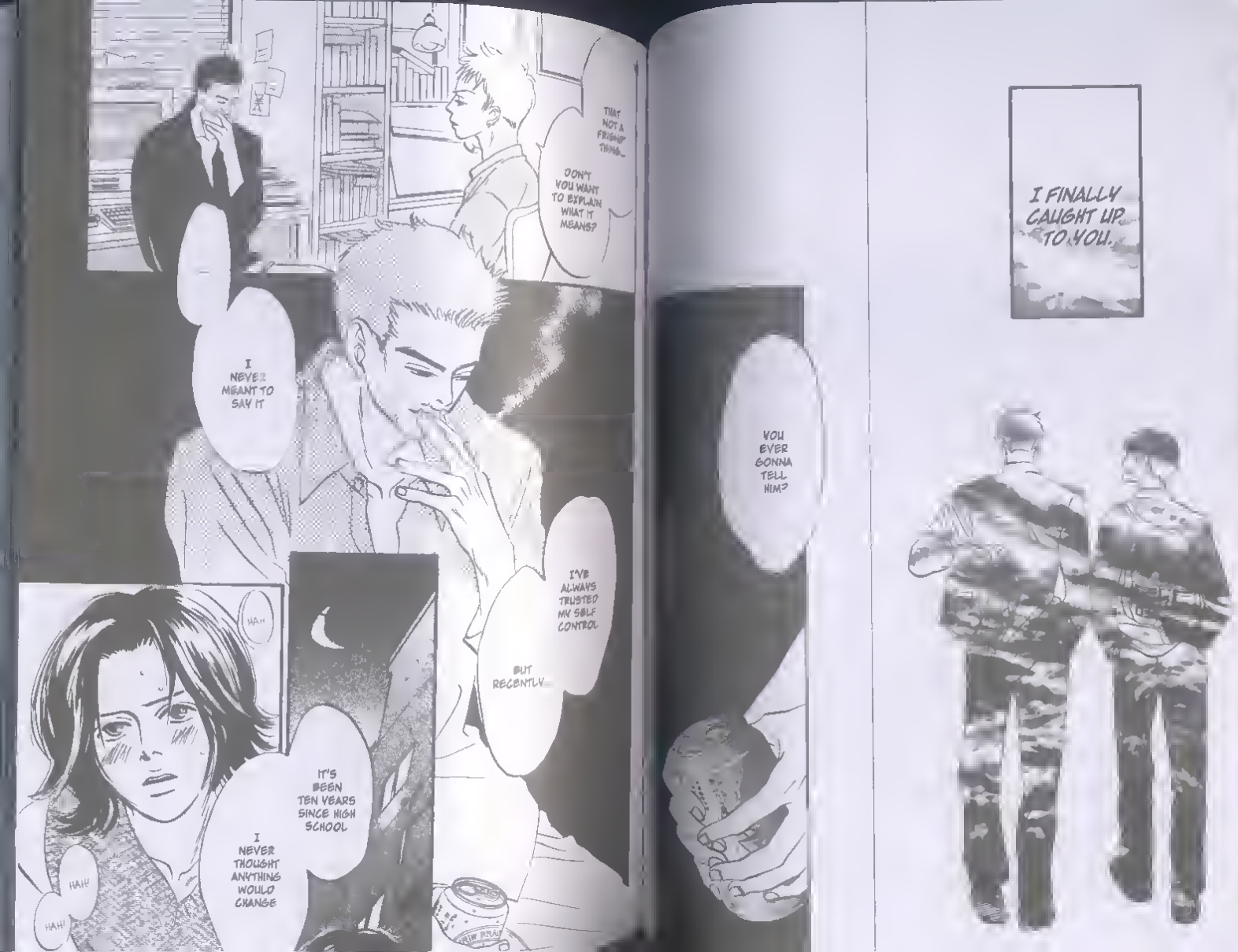
GOING HOME? WHERE'S NAOKI?
HE BADLY LEFT

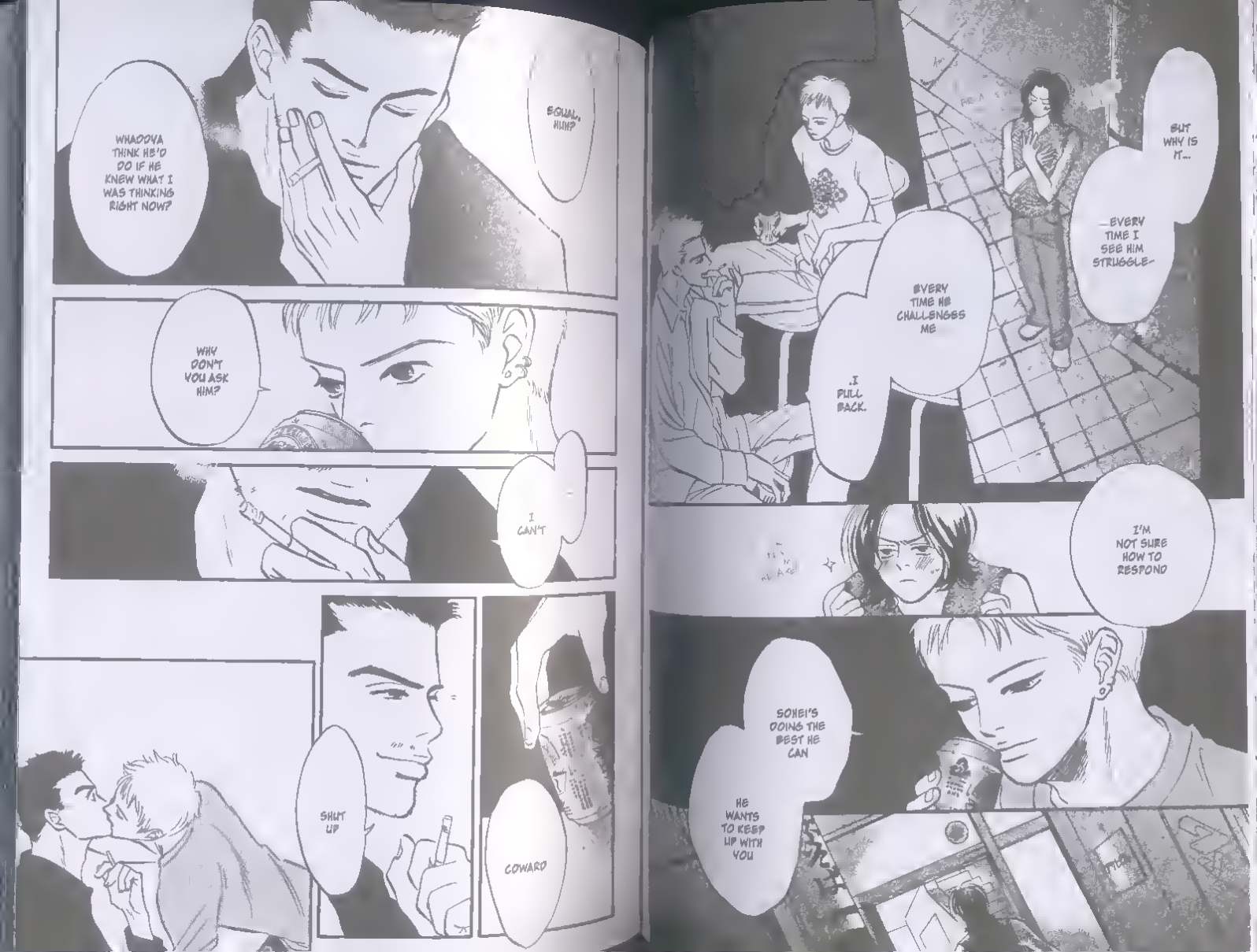
HMM? SOHEI?
CHIKA!
WAIT UP!

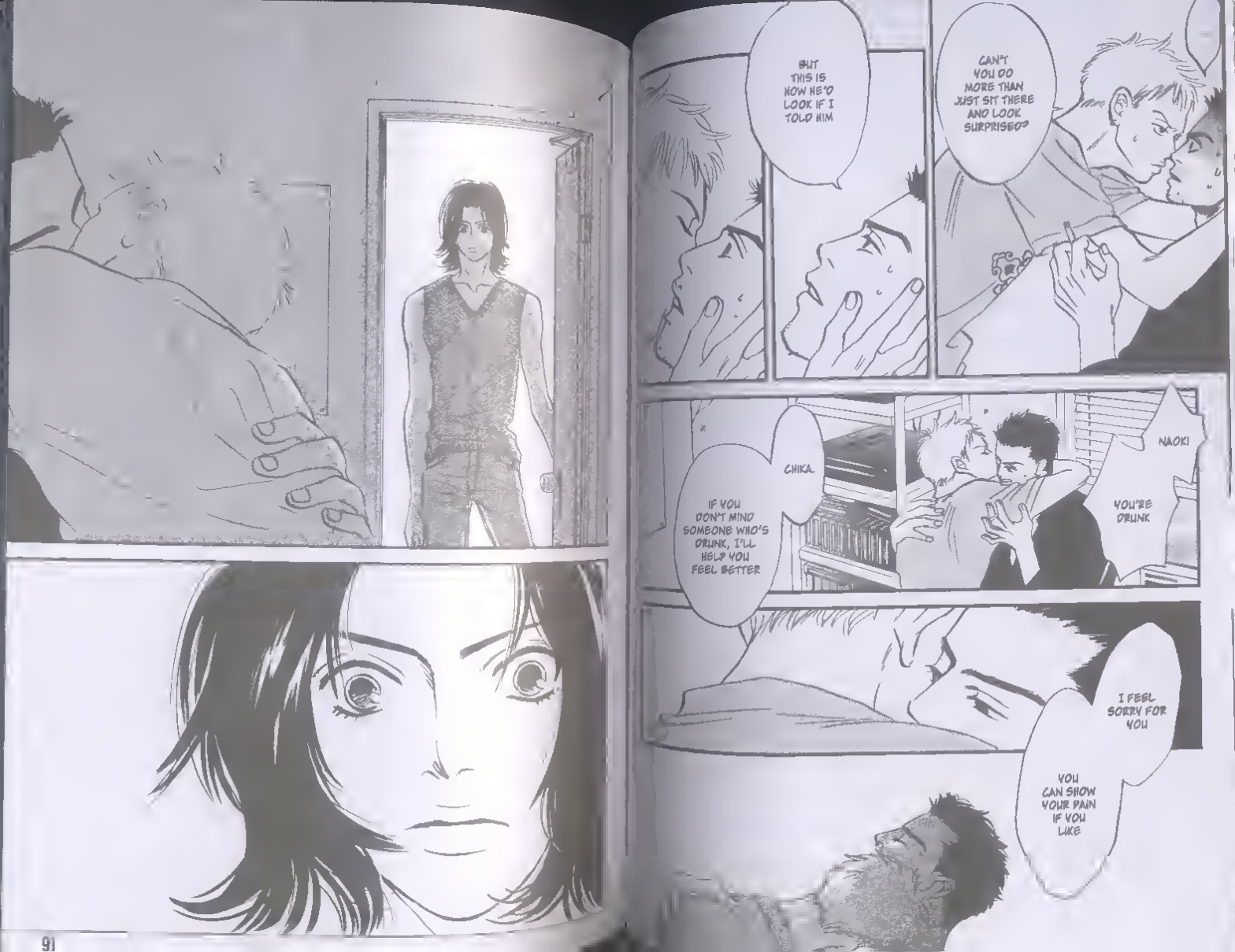
I PASSED, CHIKA!

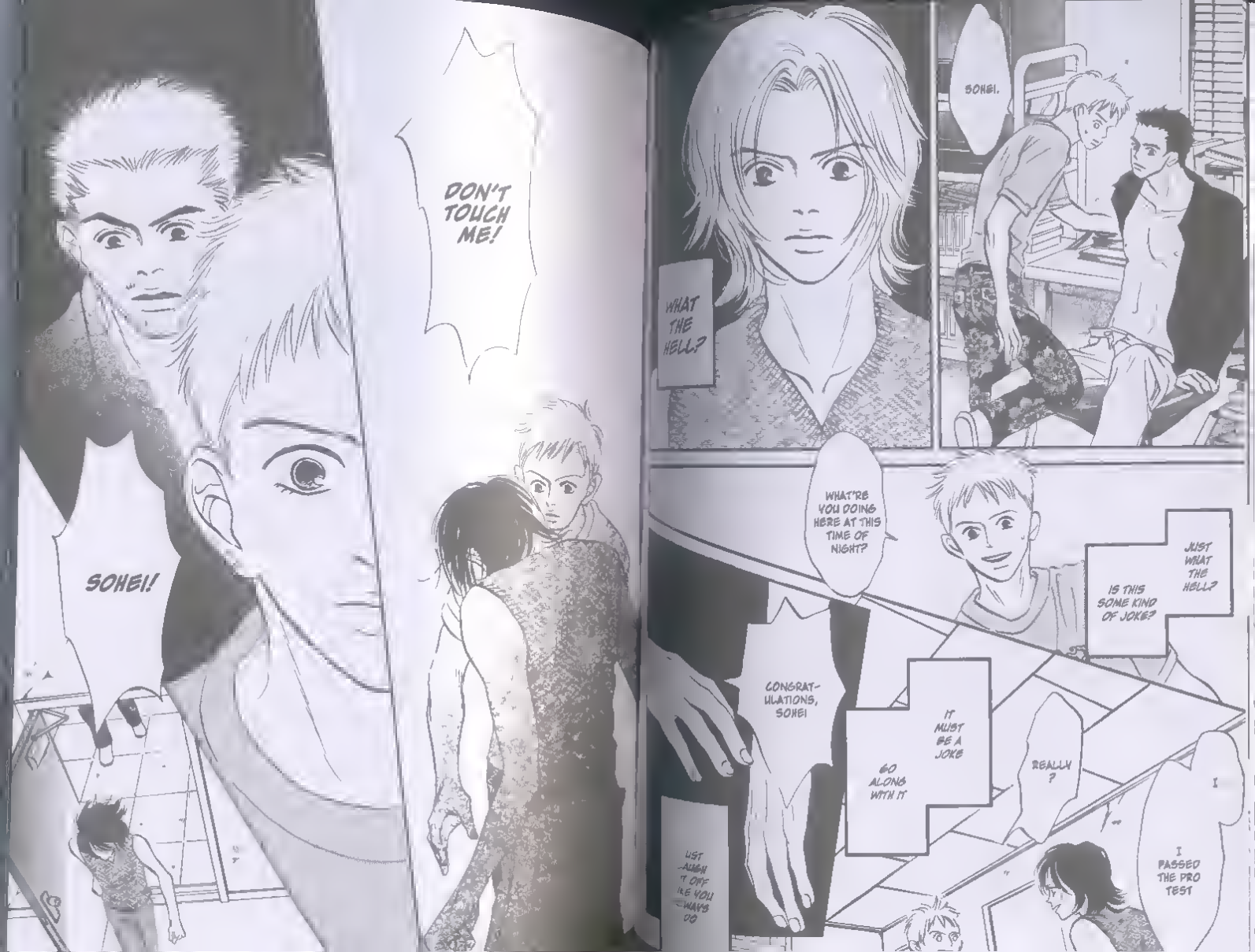

HOLD ON
I'LL GO HOME WITH YOU.

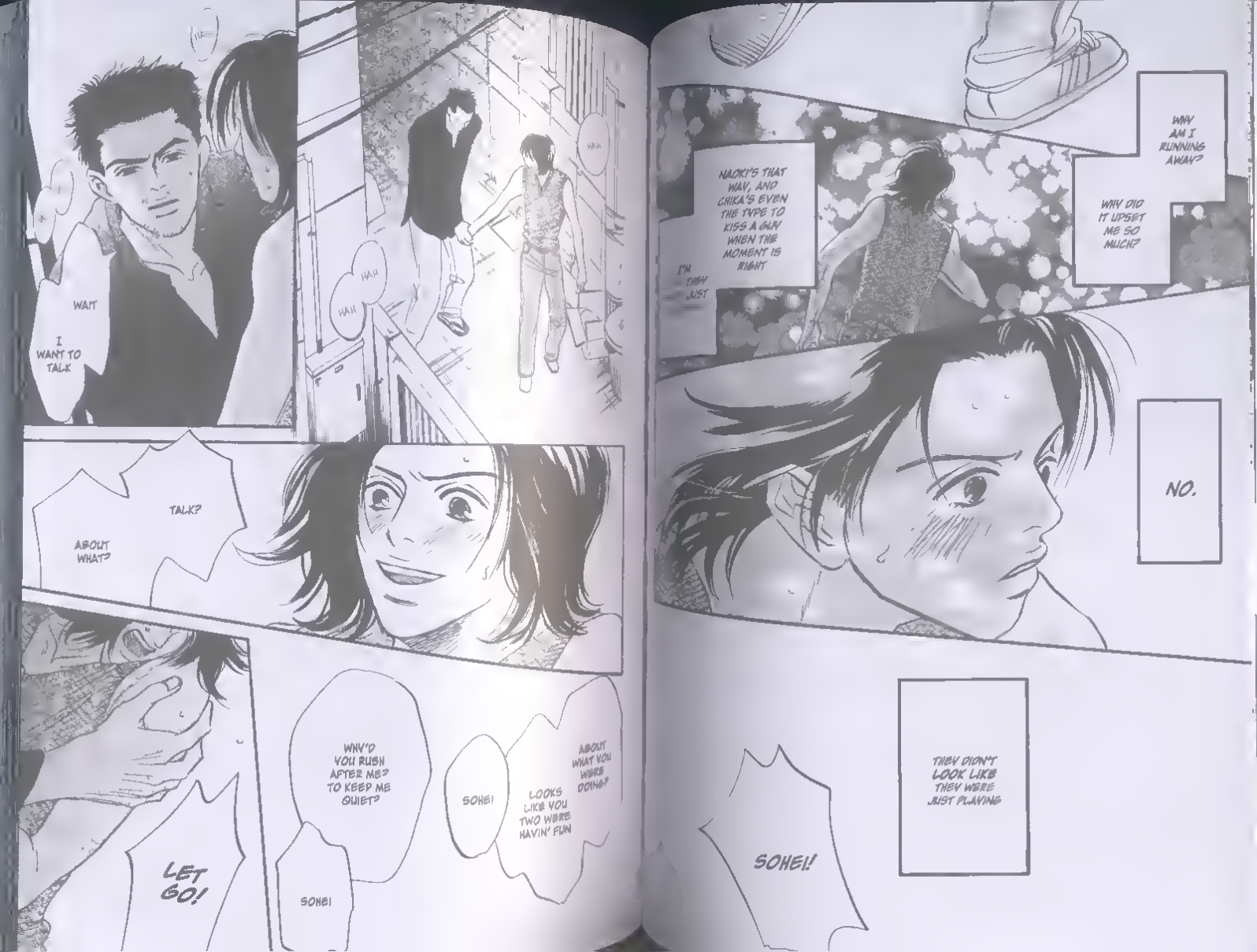
HUH?
SOHEI! NO!


THAT NOT A FRIGHTFUL THING...
DON'T YOU WANT TO EXPLAIN WHAT IT MEANS?
I NEVER MEANT TO SAY IT
I'VE ALWAYS TRUSTED MY SELF CONTROL
BUT RECENTLY...
HAH
IT'S BEEN TEN YEARS SINCE HIGH SCHOOL
I NEVER THOUGHT ANYTHING WOULD CHANGE
HAH
HAH
YOU EVER GONNA TELL HIM?
I FINALLY CAUGHT UP TO YOU.


WHADDYA THINK HE'D DO IF HE KNEW WHAT I WAS THINKING RIGHT NOW?
EQUAL, HUH?
WHY DON'T YOU ASK HIM?
I CAN'T
SHUT UP
COWARD
BUT WHY IS IT...
—EVERY TIME I SEE HIM STRUGGLE—
EVERY TIME HE CHALLENGES ME
I PULL BACK
I'M NOT SURE HOW TO RESPOND
SOHEI'S DOING THE BEST HE CAN
HE WANTS TO KEEP UP WITH YOU


BUT THIS IS HOW HE'D LOOK IF I TOLD HIM
CAN'T YOU DO MORE THAN JUST SIT THERE AND LOOK SURPRISED?
CHIKA
IF YOU DON'T MIND SOMEONE WHO'S DRUNK, I'LL HELP YOU FEEL BETTER
NAOKI
YOU'RE DRUNK
I FEEL SORRY FOR YOU
YOU CAN SHOW YOUR PAIN IF YOU LIKE


SOHEI!
DON'T TOUCH ME!
WHAT THE HELL?
SOHEI.
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT?
IS THIS SOME KIND OF JOKE?
JUST WHAT THE HELL?
CONGRAT-ULATIONS, SOHEI
IT MUST BE A JOKE
GO ALONG WITH IT
JUST LAUGH IT OFF LIKE YOU ALWAYS DO
REALLY ?
I PASSED THE PRO TEST


WAIT
I WANT TO TALK
HAH
HAH
HAH
TALK?
ABOUT WHAT?
LET GO!
WHY'D YOU RUSH AFTER ME? TO KEEP ME QUIET?
SOHEI
SOHEI
LOOKS LIKE YOU TWO WERE HAVIN' FUN
ABOUT WHAT YOU WERE DOING?
SOHEI!
THEY DIDN'T LOOK LIKE THEY WERE JUST PLAYING
NO.
WHY AM I RUNNING AWAY?
WHY DID IT UPSET ME SO MUCH?
NAOKI'S THAT WAY, AND CHIKA'S EVEN THE TYPE TO KISS A GUY WHEN THE MOMENT IS RIGHT
I'M THEY JUST

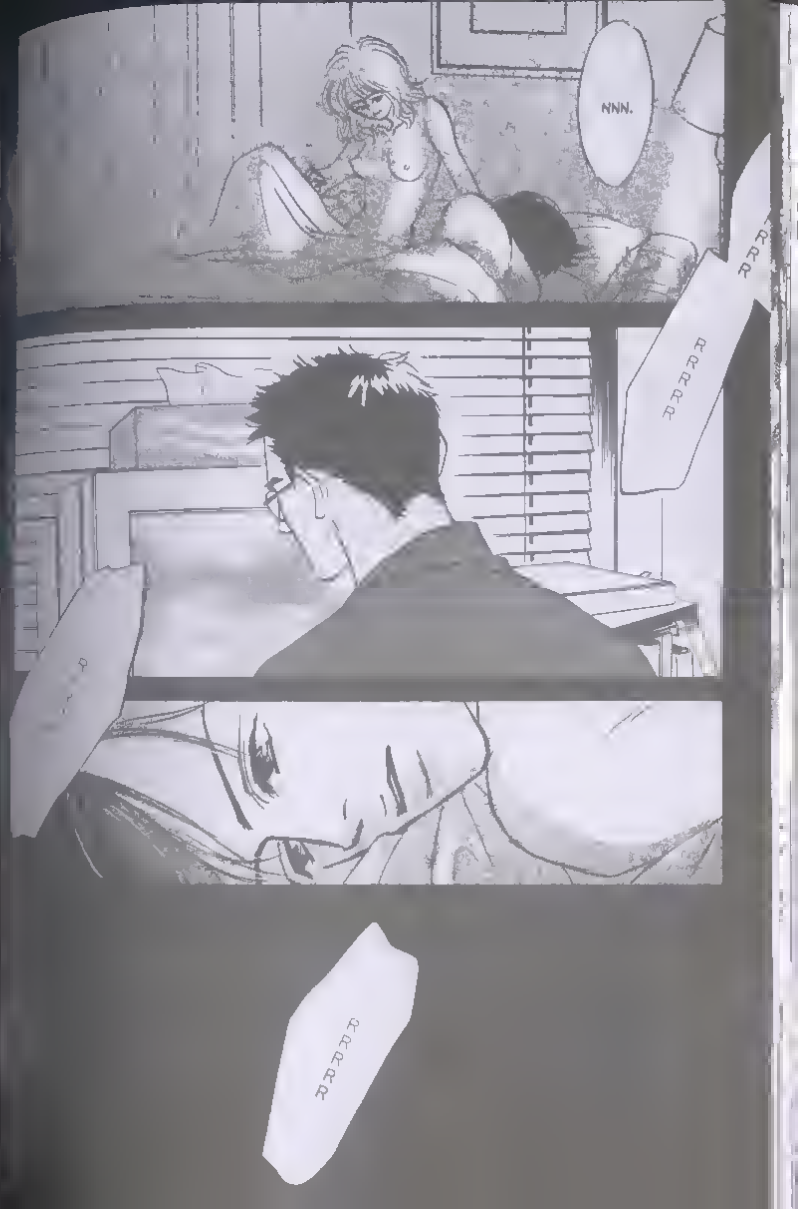
CHI--
WHAT?
CHIKA?!
HURTS
OW
NNN
NNN
CHI_
KA
LET GO
PERV!
DON'T TOUCH ME, YOU FAG!
WHY?
HOW LONG HAVE YOU TWO BEEN GETTIN' IT ON?
HAS IT BEEN GOIN' ON A WHILE?
WHY'D YOU HIDE IT FROM ME?
WHY AM I SO ANGRY?
WHY SO..?
MY CHEST HURTS.

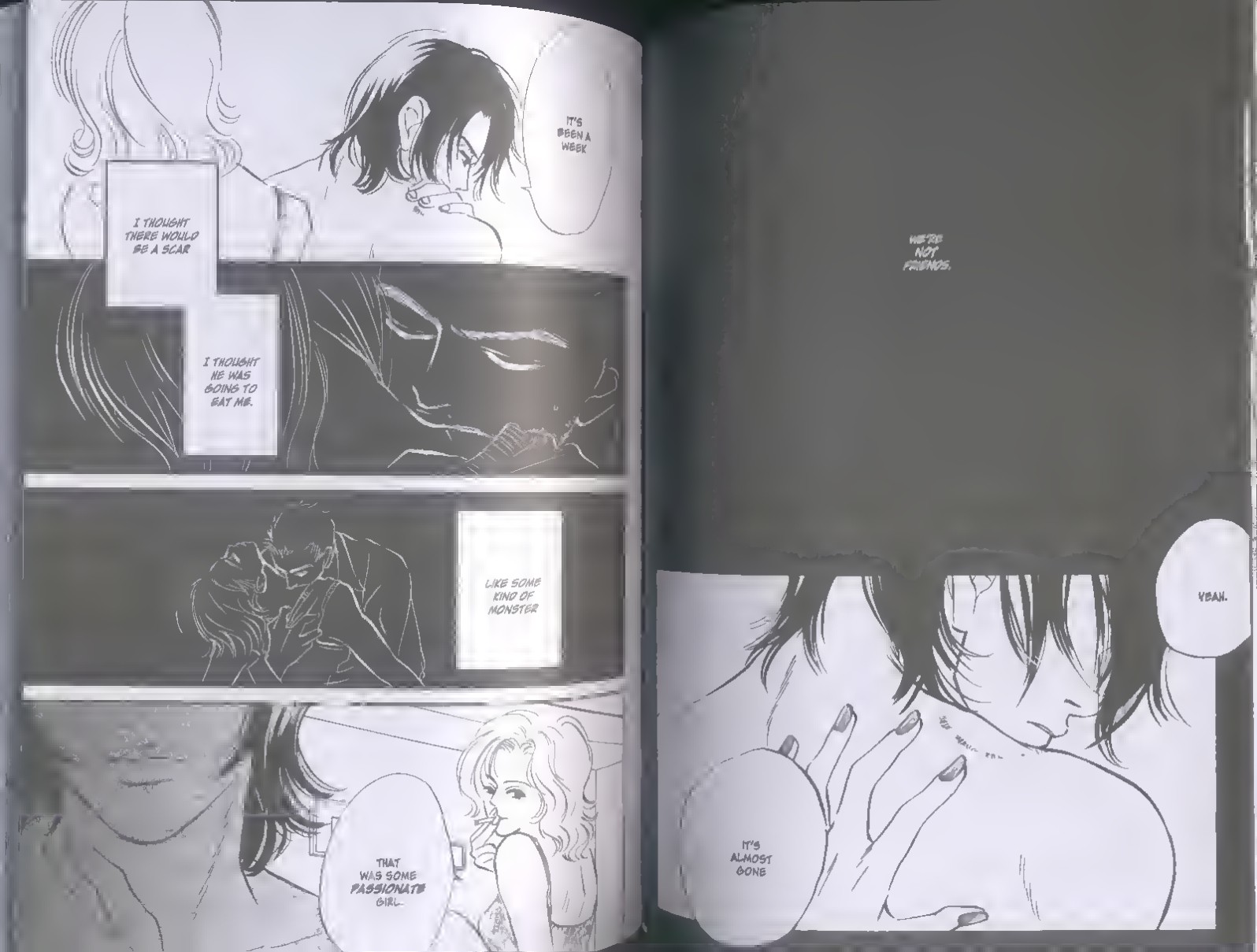
WE'RE FRIENDS..
HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH
OH MAN
WHY?
AREN'T WE? EVER SINCE HIGH SCHOOL?
WE'RE FRIENDS
ANSWER ME!
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS TO ME, CHIKA?
STOP!
NNN
NNN
AH
HA
AHH
AHH
NO

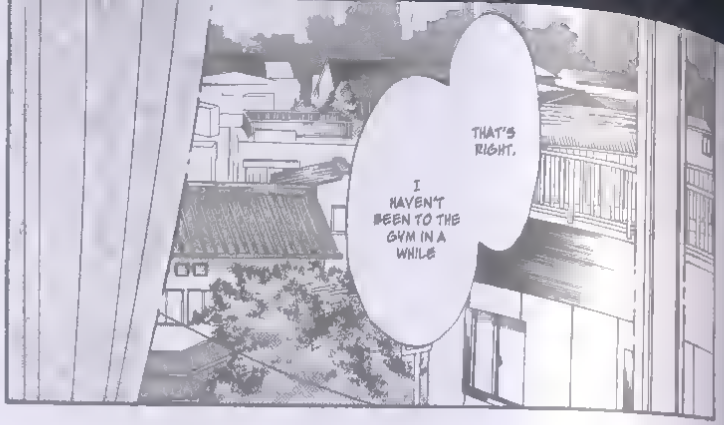
I'VE NEVER ONCE CONSIDERED YOU A FRIEND.
WE'RE NOT FRIENDS
YOU'RE SUCH A PAIN IN THE ASS.
YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT MY FEELINGS! YOU ONLY WORRY ABOUT YOURSELF!
EVER SINCE HIGH SCHOOL

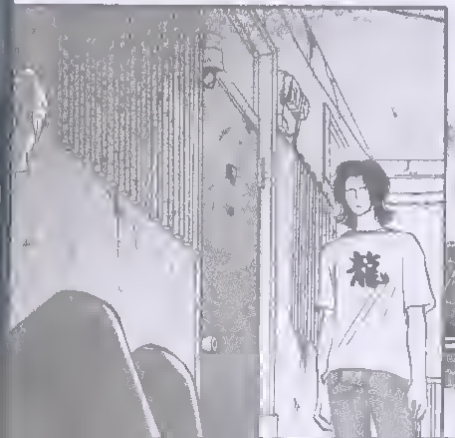
THAT'S THE THIRD DAY IN A ROW
WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?
HE'S NEVER HOME
HUH?
SHIRAI DIDN'T SHOW UP TODAY EITHER?
ボクシングジム
GYM

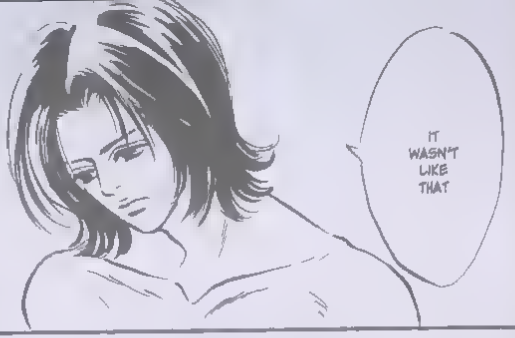
ROUND·4



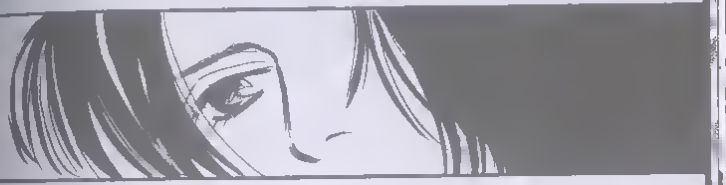

IT'S BEEN A WEEK
I THOUGHT THERE WOULD BE A SCAR
I THOUGHT HE WAS GOING TO EAT ME.
LIKE SOME KIND OF MONSTER
THAT WAS SOME PASSIONATE GIRL.
WE'RE NOT FRIENDS.
YEAH.
IT'S ALMOST GONE





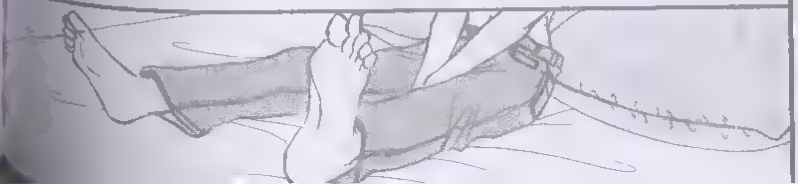


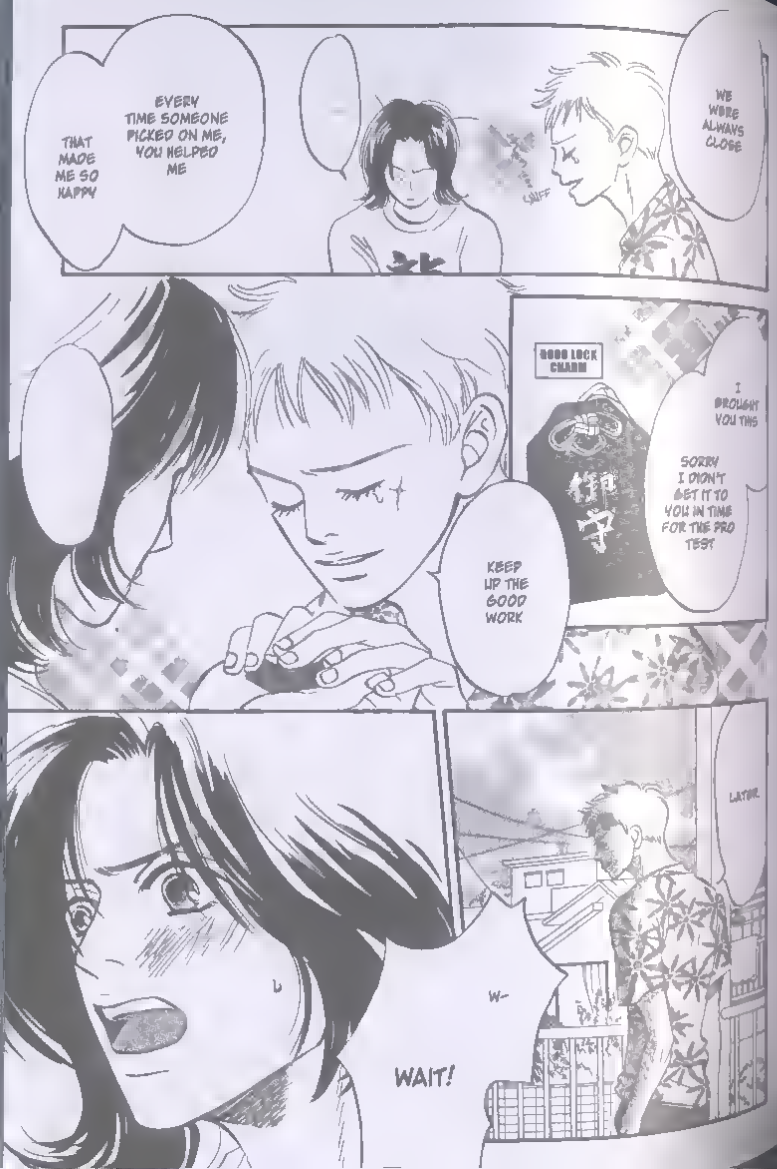
"YOU'RE A PAIN IN THE ASS "

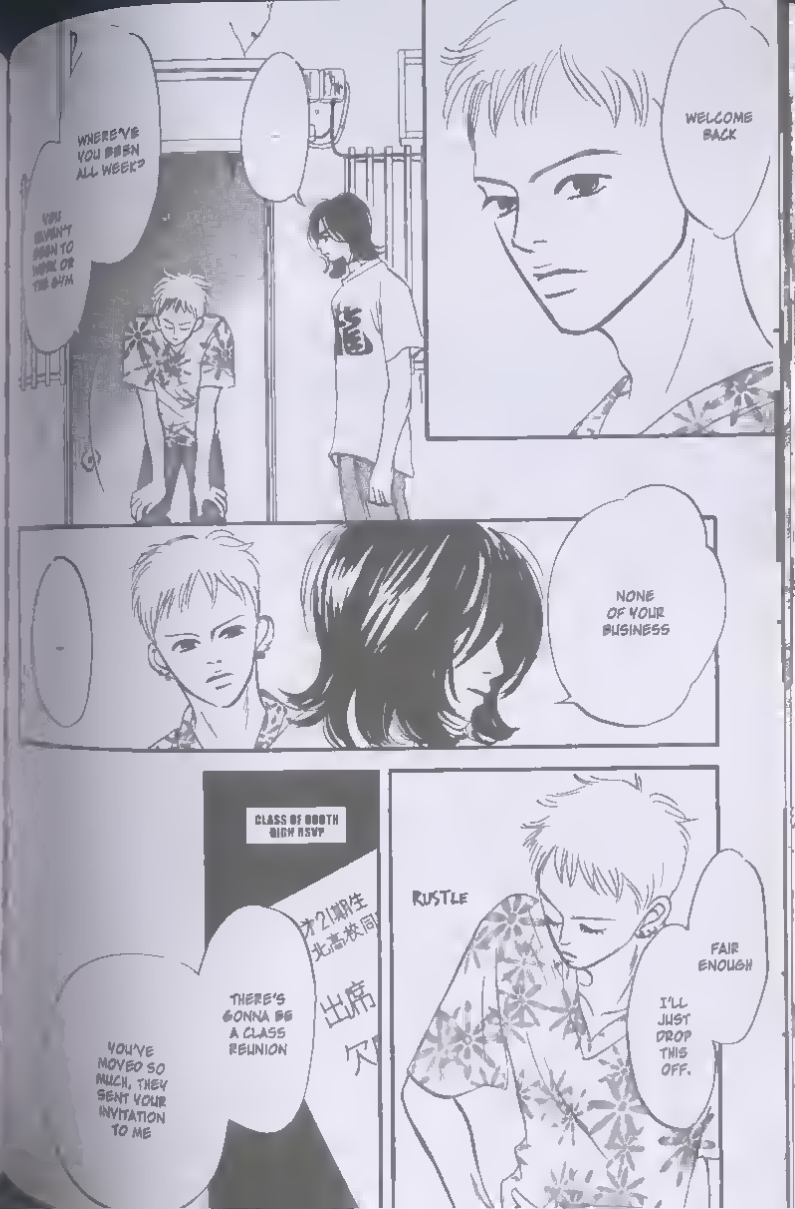


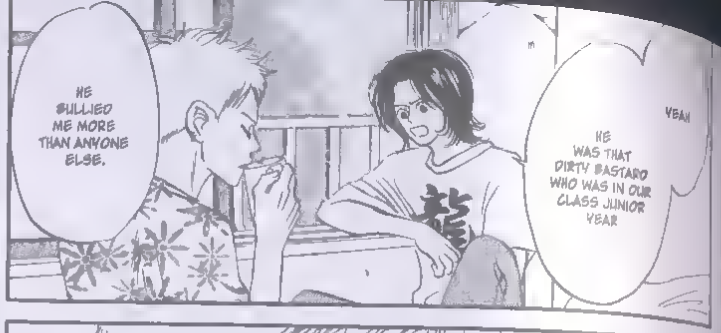
"IN TEN YEARS .. "

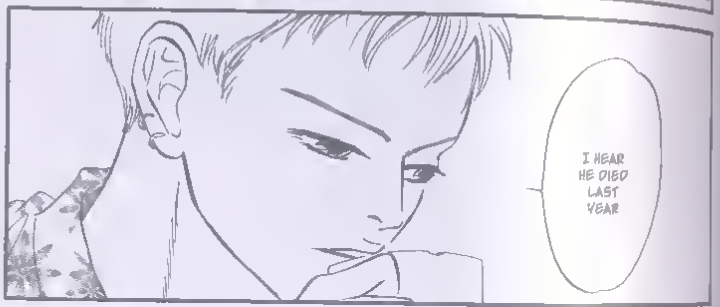
"I'VE NEVER ONCE CONSIDERED YOU A FRIEND "

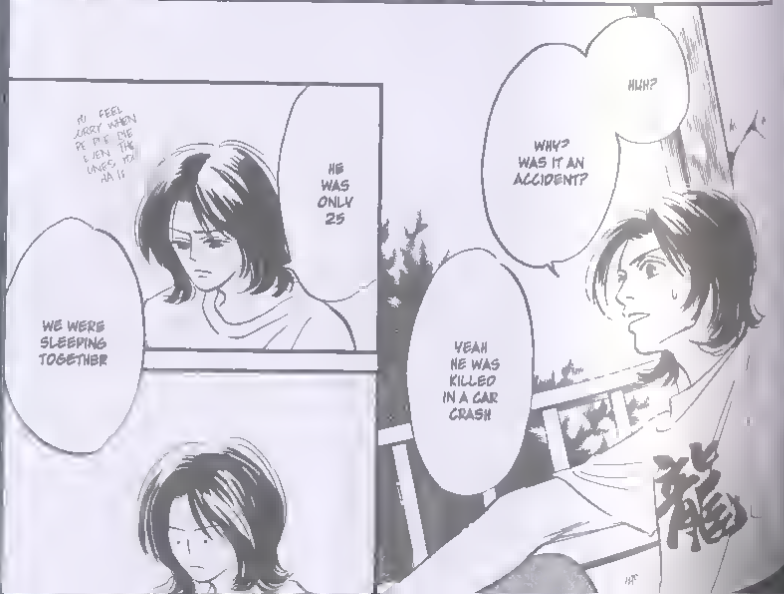



WE WERE ALWAYS CLOSE
EVERY TIME SOMEONE PICKED ON ME, YOU HELPED ME
THAT MADE ME SO HAPPY
GOOD LUCK CHARM
I BROUGHT YOU THIS
SORRY I DIDN'T GET IT TO YOU IN TIME FOR THE PRO TEST
KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK
LATER
W-
WAIT!

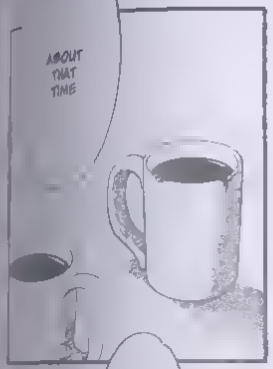

WHERE'VE YOU BEEN ALL WEEK?
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN TO WORK OR THE GYM
WELCOME BACK
NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS
CLASS OF 00OTH HIGH RSVP
YOU'VE MOVED SO MUCH, THEY SENT YOUR INVITATION TO ME
THERE'S GONNA BE A CLASS REUNION
RUSTLE
FAIR ENOUGH
I'LL JUST DROP THIS OFF.


HE BULLIED ME MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE.
YEAH
HE WAS THAT DIRTY BASTARD WHO WAS IN OUR CLASS JUNIOR YEAR

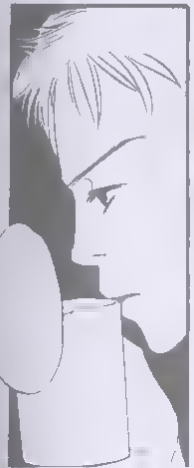

I HEAR HE DIED LAST YEAR


I FEEL DIRTY WHEN PEOPLE LOOK AT ME WHEN THEY FIND OUT
HE WAS ONLY 25
WE WERE SLEEPING TOGETHER
HUH?
WHY? WAS IT AN ACCIDENT?
YEAH HE WAS KILLED IN A CAR CRASH

HEY
THE LEAST I CAN DO IS OFFER YOU A CUP OF COFFEE

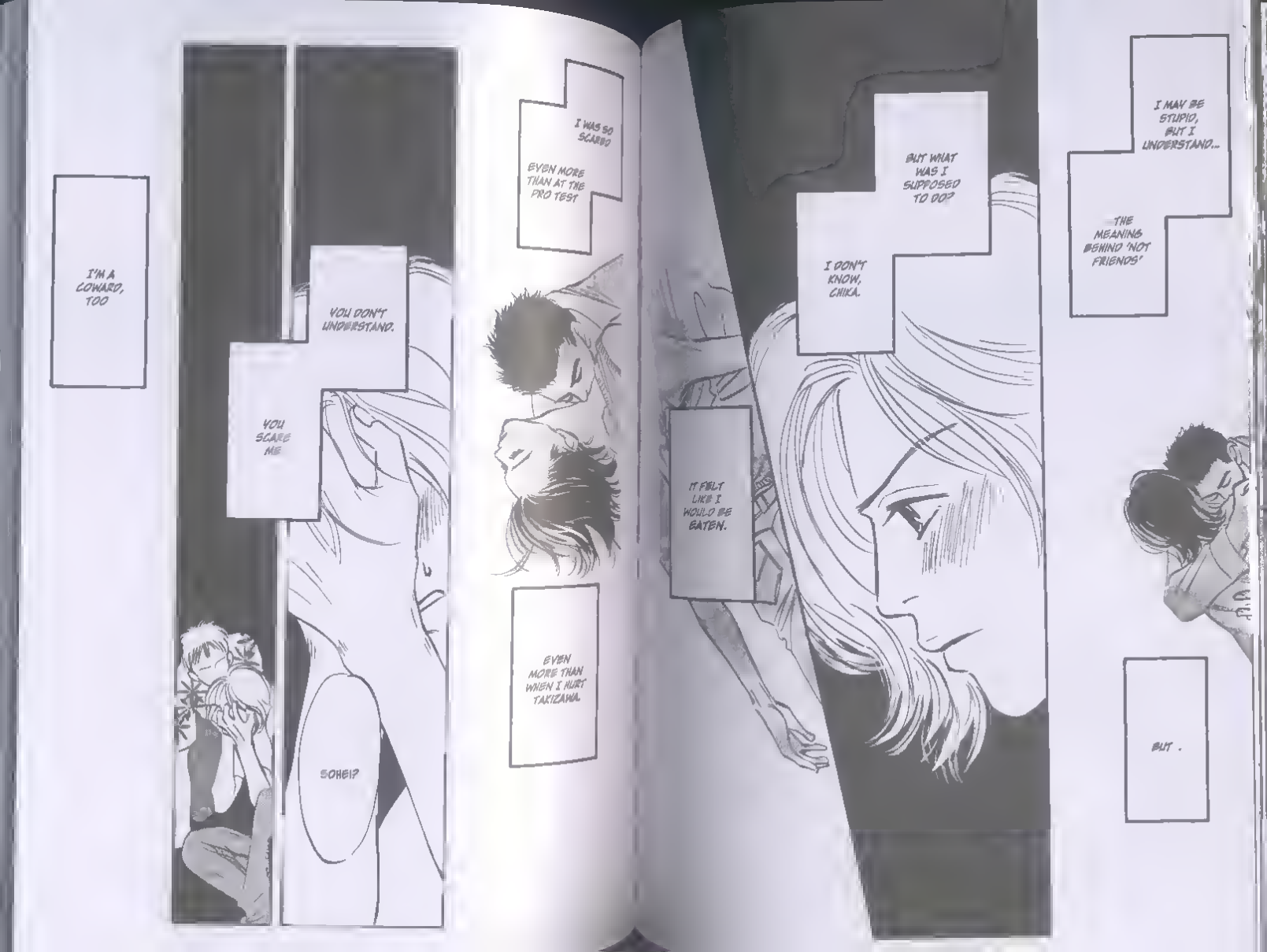

ABOUT THAT TIME

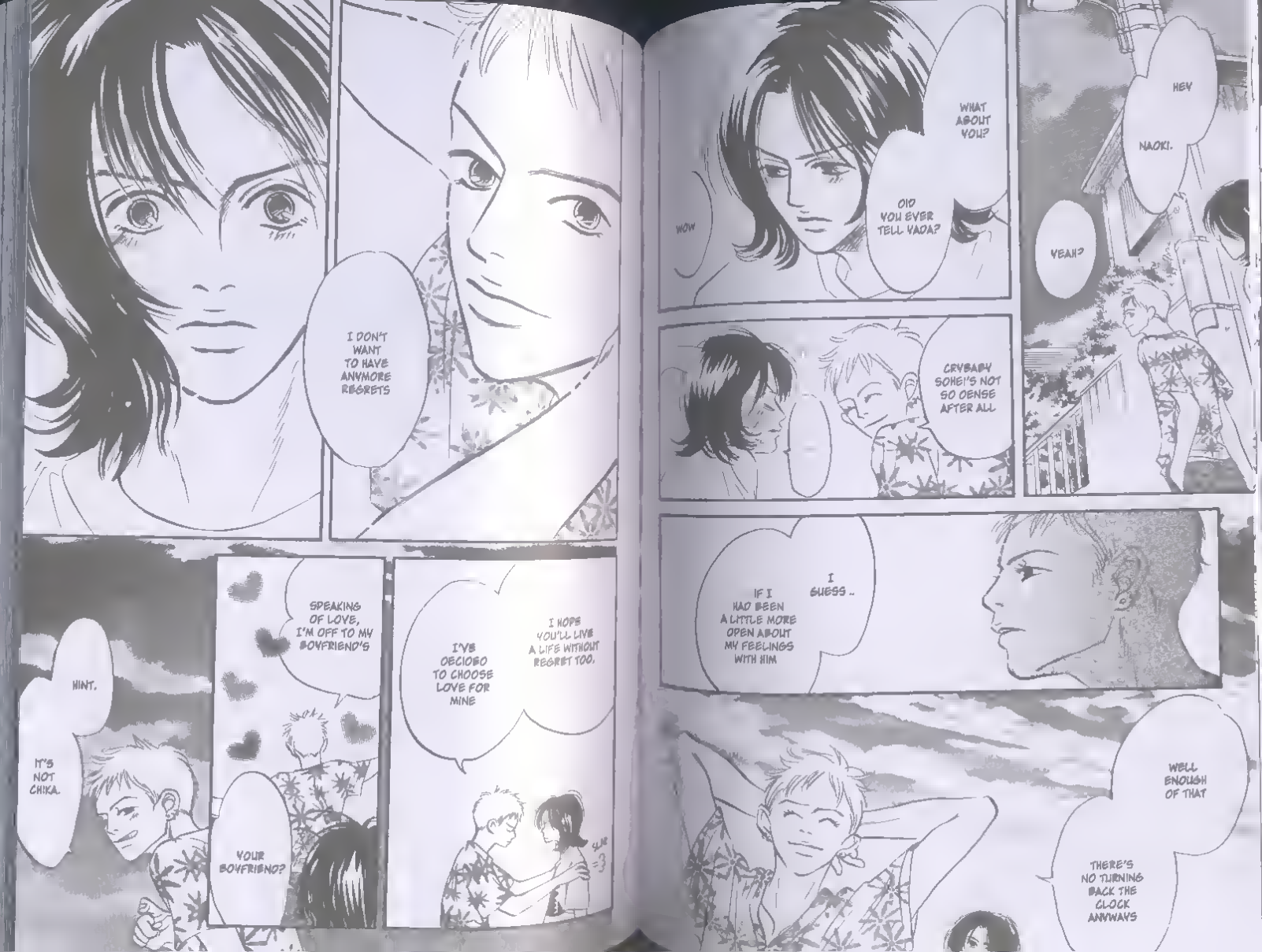
YOU KNOW..

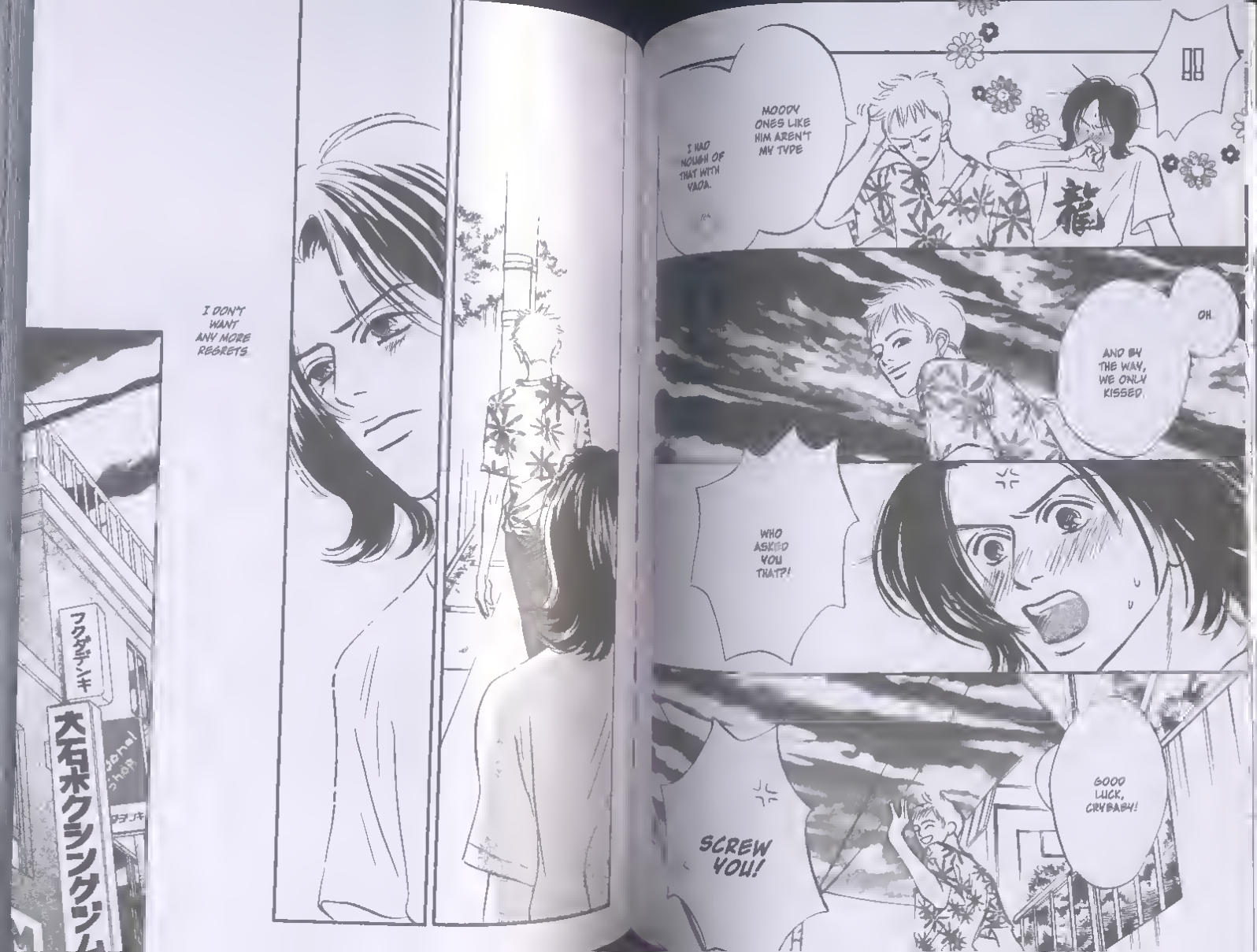

REMEMBER YAOA?

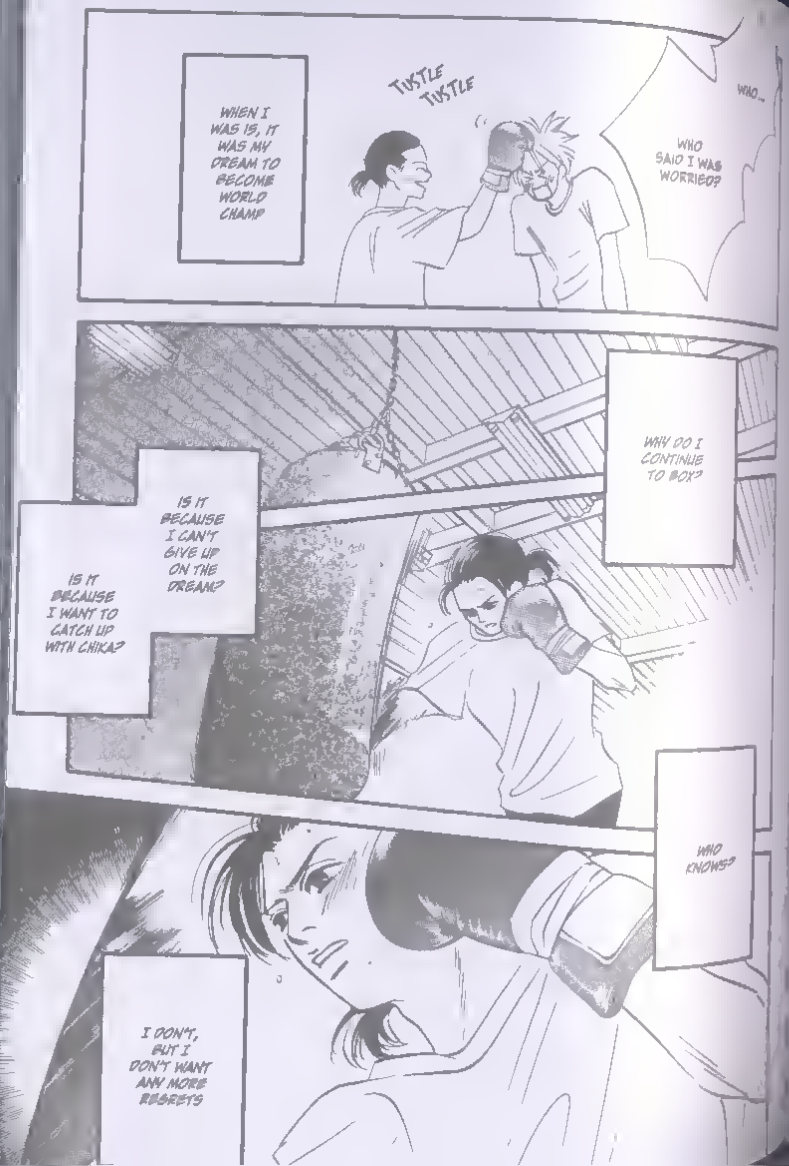
IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS

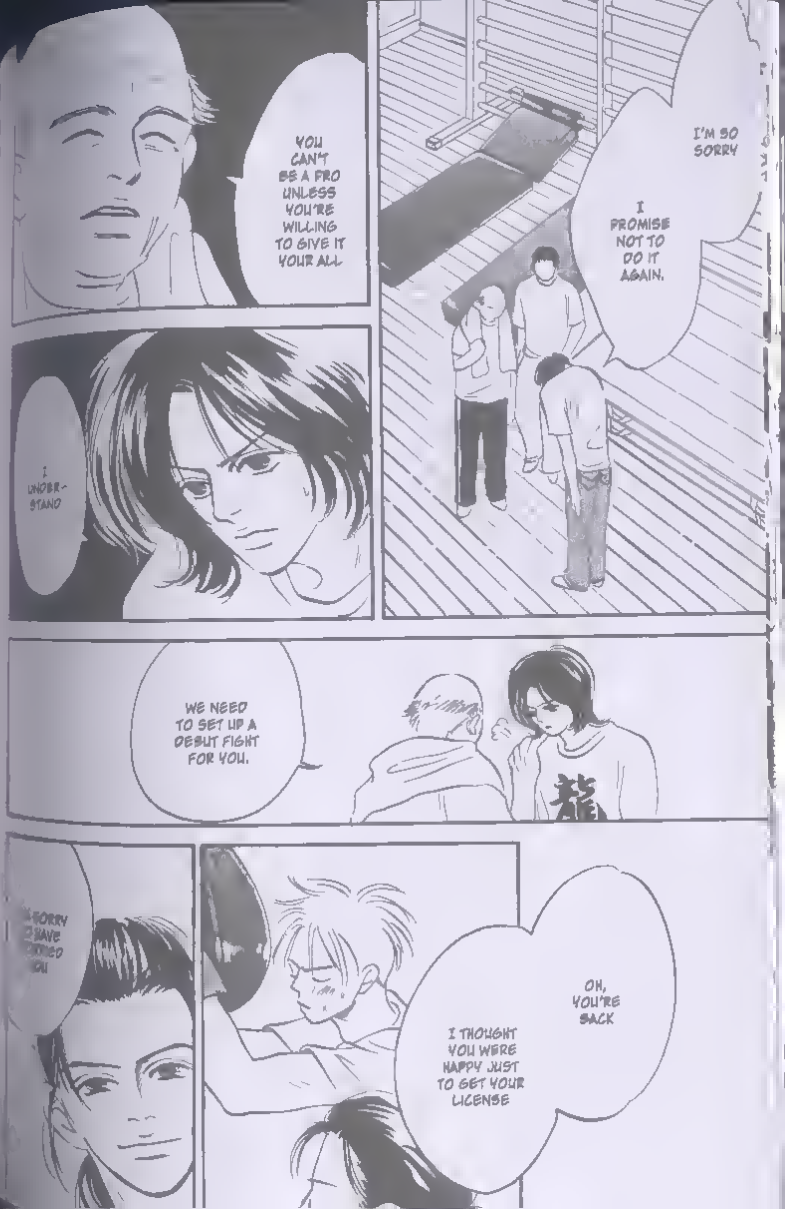
BUT HE WAS TOO SCARED TO TELL ME
IT'S REALLY SILLY IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT HE LIKED ME A LOT
BUT LATER HE'D ALWAYS GET THEM BACK FOR ME
JUST LIKE SOMEONE ELSE I KNOW
I DO
"NEVER ONCE... A FRIEND."
I THINK YOU KNOW
AND WHO WOULD THAT BE?
NO WAY!
THE SEX
HE'S ALWAYS BEEN A ROMANTIC EVEN WITH ALL THE WOMEN HE'S SLEPT WITH
YOU KNOW HOW HE'D PICK ON ME EVERY DAY?
HE DID THAT ON PURPOSE.
HE WAS SCARED PEOPLE WOULD FIND OUT ABOUT HIM
HE'D SAY "NO QUEERS AT SCHOOL" AND THROW AWAY MY TEXTBOOKS


I'M A COWARD, TOO
SOHEI?
YOU SCARE ME
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND.
EVEN MORE THAN WHEN I HURT TAKIZAWA.
EVEN MORE THAN AT THE PRO TEST
I WAS SO SCARED
IT FELT LIKE I WOULD BE EATEN.
I DON'T KNOW, CHIKA.
BUT WHAT WAS I SUPPOSED TO DO?
BUT .
THE MEANING BEHIND 'NOT FRIENDS'
I MAY BE STUPID, BUT I UNDERSTAND...


I DON'T WANT TO HAVE ANYMORE REGRETS
I HOPE YOU'LL LIVE A LIFE WITHOUT REGRET TOO.
I'VE DECIDED TO CHOOSE LOVE FOR MINE
SPEAKING OF LOVE, I'M OFF TO MY BOYFRIEND'S
YOUR BOYFRIEND?
HINT.
IT'S NOT CHIKA.
WOW
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
DID YOU EVER TELL YADA?
CRYBABY SOHEI'S NOT SO DENSE AFTER ALL
HEY
NAOKI.
YEAH?
I GUESS ..
IF I HAD BEEN A LITTLE MORE OPEN ABOUT MY FEELINGS WITH HIM
WELL ENOUGH OF THAT
THERE'S NO TURNING BACK THE CLOCK ANYWAYS


I DON'T WANT ANY MORE REGRETS.
フクダデンキ
大石ホクシングジム
I HAD ENOUGH OF THAT WITH YAGA.
MOODY ONES LIKE HIM AREN'T MY TYPE.
龍
OH.
AND BY THE WAY, WE ONLY KISSED.
WHO ASKED YOU THAT?!
SCREW YOU!
GOOD LUCK, CRYBABY!

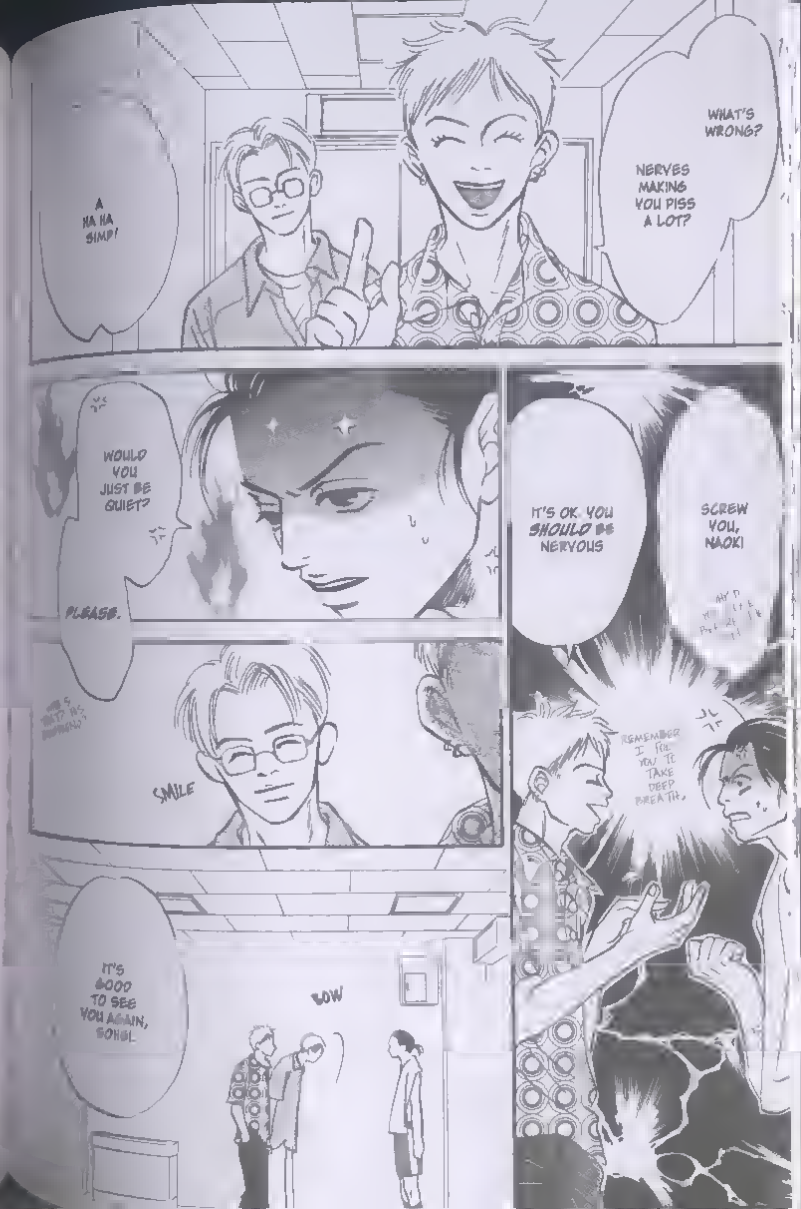

WHEN I WAS 15, IT WAS MY DREAM TO BECOME WORLD CHAMP
TUSTLE TUSTLE
WHO...
WHO SAID I WAS WORRIED?
WHY DO I CONTINUE TO BOX?
IS IT BECAUSE I CAN'T GIVE UP ON THE DREAM?
IS IT BECAUSE I WANT TO CATCH UP WITH CHIKA?
WHO KNOWS?
I DON'T, BUT I DON'T WANT ANY MORE REGRETS

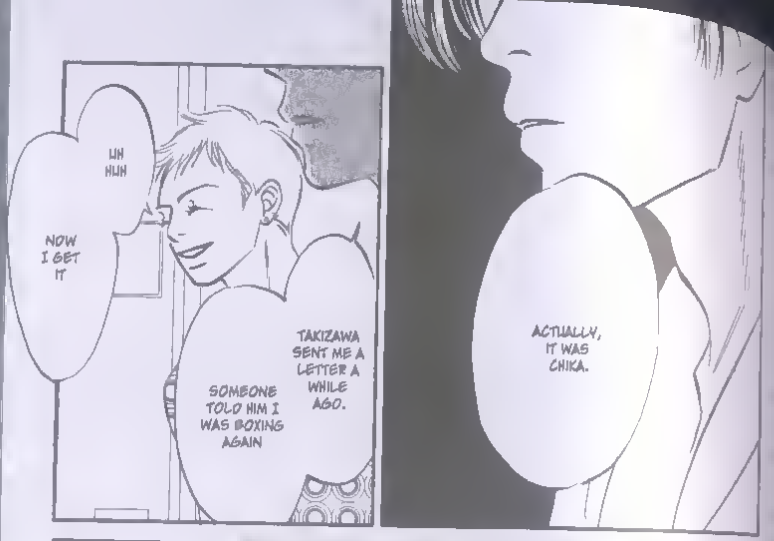

YOU CAN'T BE A PRO UNLESS YOU'RE WILLING TO GIVE IT YOUR ALL
I'M SO SORRY
I PROMISE NOT TO DO IT AGAIN.
I UNDER-STAND
WE NEED TO SET UP A DEBUT FIGHT FOR YOU.
I'M SORRY I HAVE WORRIED YOU
OH, YOU'RE BACK
I THOUGHT YOU WERE HAPPY JUST TO GET YOUR LICENSE

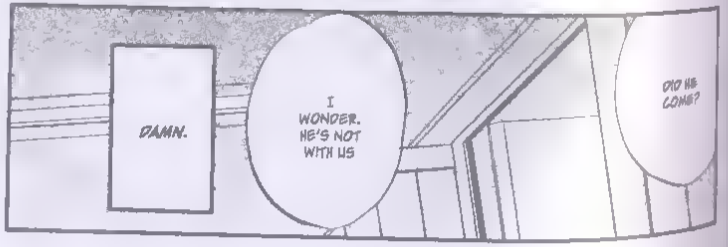
LOOK!
THAT'S NOT YOUR CUE TO GET ALL MOODY AGAIN SHEESH
WHAT'S THIS?
I WONDER HOW HE'S DOIN'
THAT'S ANOTHER REASON TO GO
HOW COULD I FACE HIM?
TICKETS TO SOHH'S FIRST PRO FIGHT!
IT'S NEXT WEEK WE HAVE TO GO!
HEY CHIKA!
CHIKA!
I'LL JUST HAVE TO DO IT UNTIL I FIND OUT

I'VE GOTTA GO TO THE BATHROOM.
BUT HE JUST WENT FIVE MINUTES AGO
POUND
JERK
TOILET
SHIT.
I'M SO NERVOUS
NO TISSUES LEFT
HEY SOHEE!
C'MON TELL ME, YOU PERV.
WHAT? TELL ME!
OH MY GOD! WHAT DID YOU DO? WAS IT THAT BAD?
TIQUE TIQUE

TAKIZAWA?
FINALLY, YOUR FIRST PRO FIGHT ARE YOU READY?
FINE I GOT NO PROBLEMS THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO
HOW'S YOU BEEN.
HOW'S- YOUR EYE?

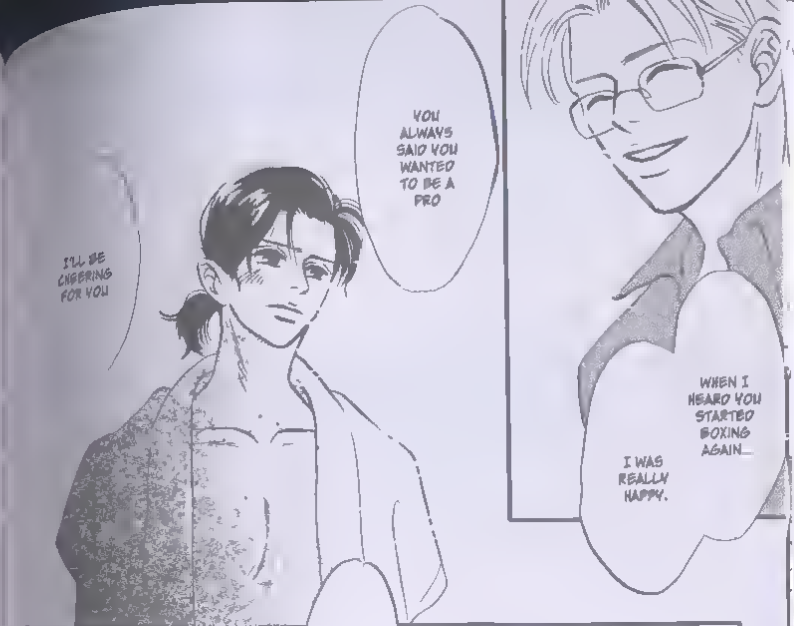

A HA HA SIMP!
WHAT'S WRONG?
NERVES MAKING YOU PISS A LOT?
WOULD YOU JUST BE QUIET?
PLEASE.
SMILE
IT'S OK. YOU SHOULD BE NERVOUS
SCREW YOU, NAOKI
REMEMBER I TOLD YOU TO TAKE DEEP BREATH.
IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, SOHGI.
WOW

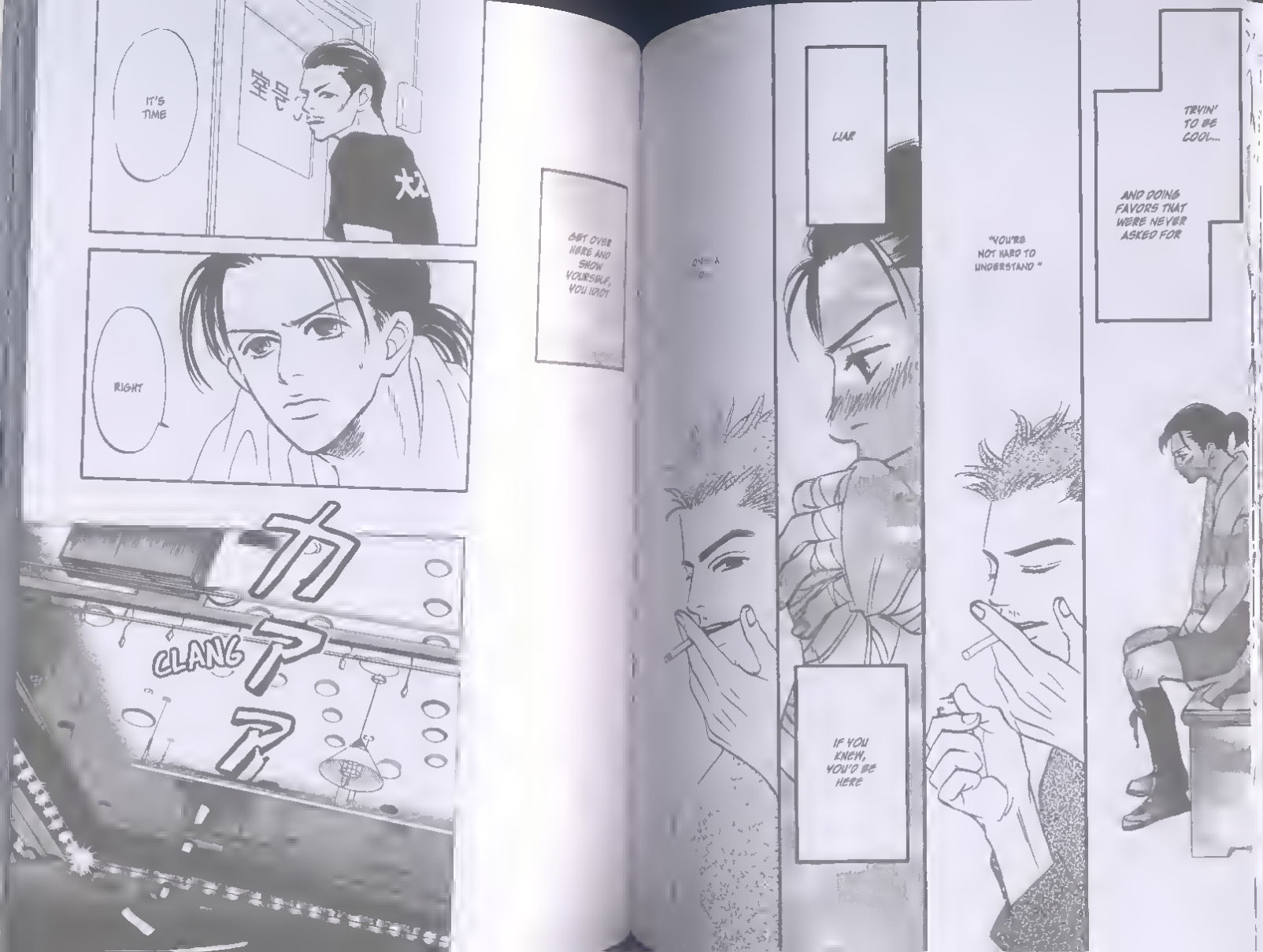


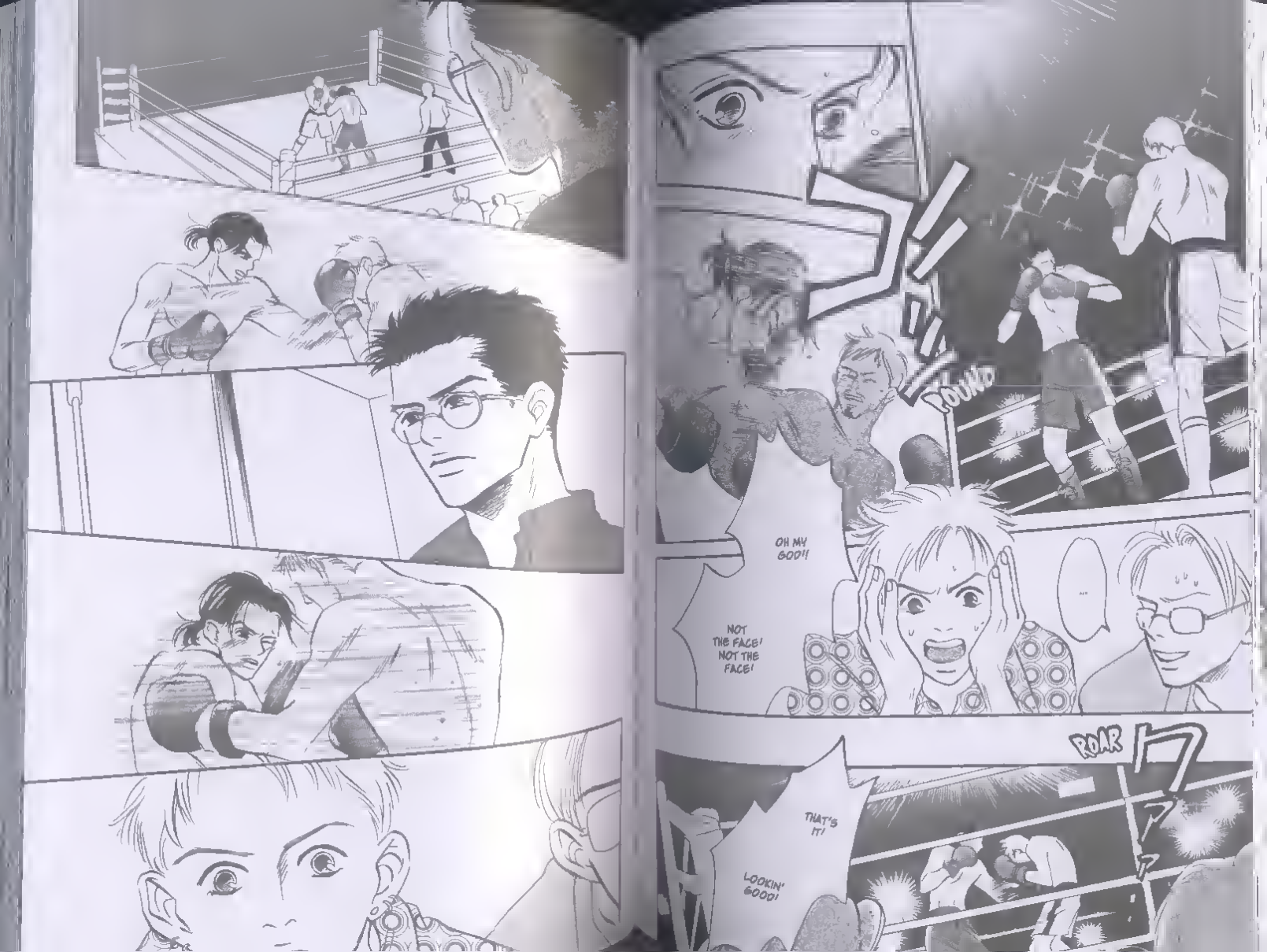


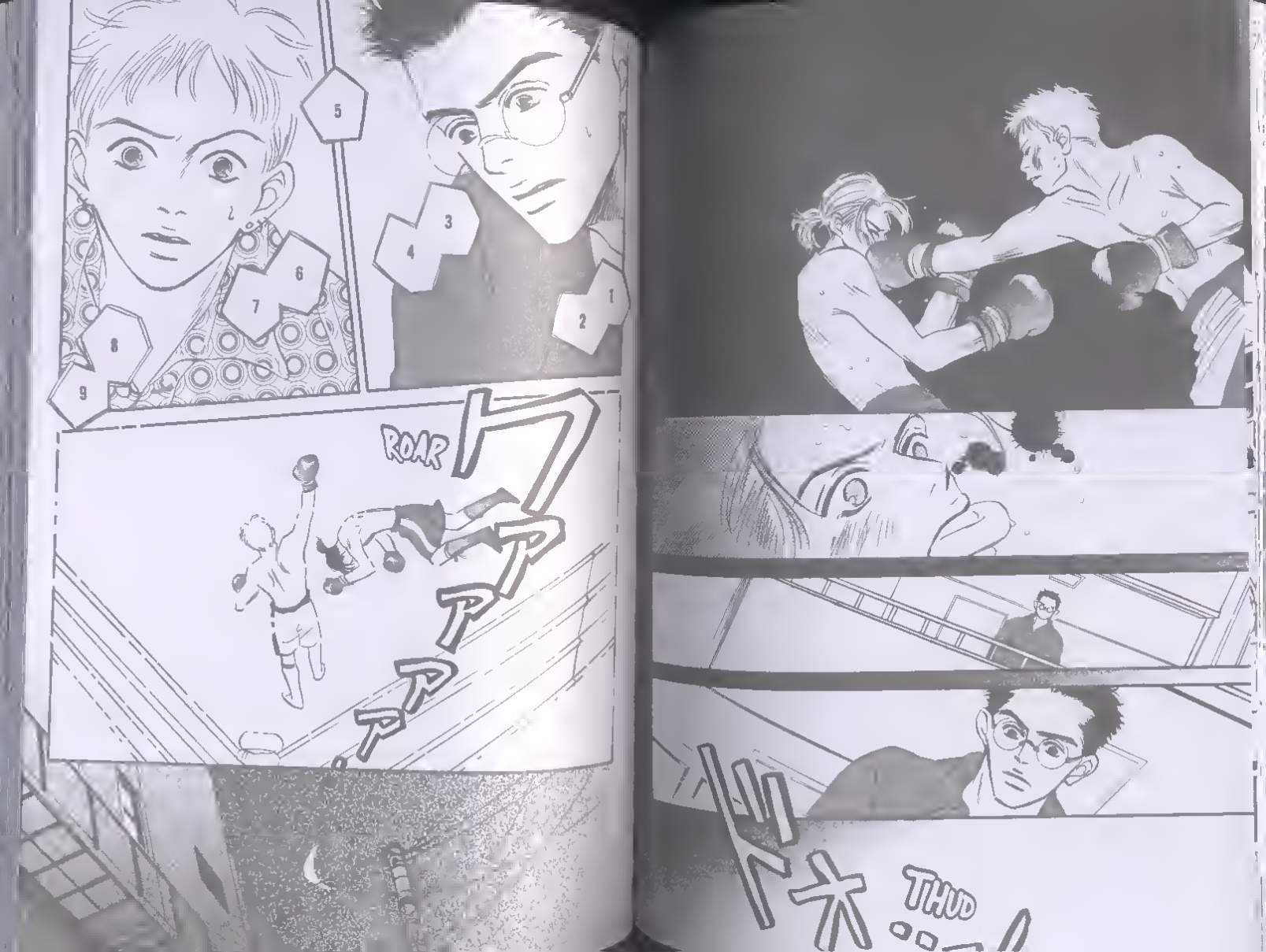
I CAN'T CONCENTRATE ON THE FIGHTING

THAT'S WHY YOU SHOULDN'T VISIT UNTIL AFTER THE MATCH


YOU ALWAYS SAID YOU WANTED TO BE A PRO
I'LL BE CHEERING FOR YOU
WHEN I HEARD YOU STARTED BOXING AGAIN...
I WAS REALLY HAPPY.
YEAH
THANK YOU.
HOW TOUCHING!


IT'S TIME
RIGHT
CLANG
カアア
GET OVER HERE AND SHOW YOURSELF, YOU IDIOT
LIAR
IF YOU KNEW, YOU'D BE HERE
"YOU'RE NOT HARD TO UNDERSTAND"
TRYIN' TO BE COOL...
AND DOING FAVORS THAT WERE NEVER ASKED FOR


POUND
OH MY GOD!!
NOT THE FACE! NOT THE FACE!
...
ROAR
THAT'S IT!
LOOKIN' GOOD!


5
3
4
1
2
6
7
8
9
ROAR
トアアアアア
THUD

YOUR FACE LOOKS LIKE SHIT.
TOUGH LUCK.
3.5 Milk
WHAT A GLORIOUS DEBUT BOUT KNOCKED OUT IN THE 3RD ROUND
DON'T ACT LIKE YOU WEREN'T THERE.

THAT YOU, NAOKI?
GUESS AGAIN
HA
HAVEN'T WE HAD THIS CONVERSATION BEFORE?

THE MOMENT I FELL..
-I SAW YOU
WASN'T SO DRAMATIC
IF I WERE JOE, WOULD'VE GOTTEN UP WHEN THE COUNT HIT "8"
I WANTED TO GET UP, TO COME FROM BEHIND, TO KNOCK THE OTHER GUY OUT
IF I DID, I THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE ME AGAIN
SILLY
HELP ME FEEL BETTER
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
CAN'T YOU BE JUST BE NICE TO ME TODAY?
THAT'S MORE NAOKI'S JOB
NO

I WANT YOU.
NO
DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?
BUT I WANT TO FIND OUT
TELL ME
IF WE AREN'T FRIENDS, WHAT ARE WE?
IF YOU WANT ME TO STOP, SAY SO NOW
SHUT UP

HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH
CHIKA
SOHEI
ARE YOU SCARED?
CHI...
KA
HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH
IT'S GOOD.
DON'T STOP
HAH
HAH
HAH
NNN
ST--
ST--
NNN

REALLY? "K" UNIVERSITY'S YOUR FIRST CHOICE? YOU ALWAYS WERE SMART

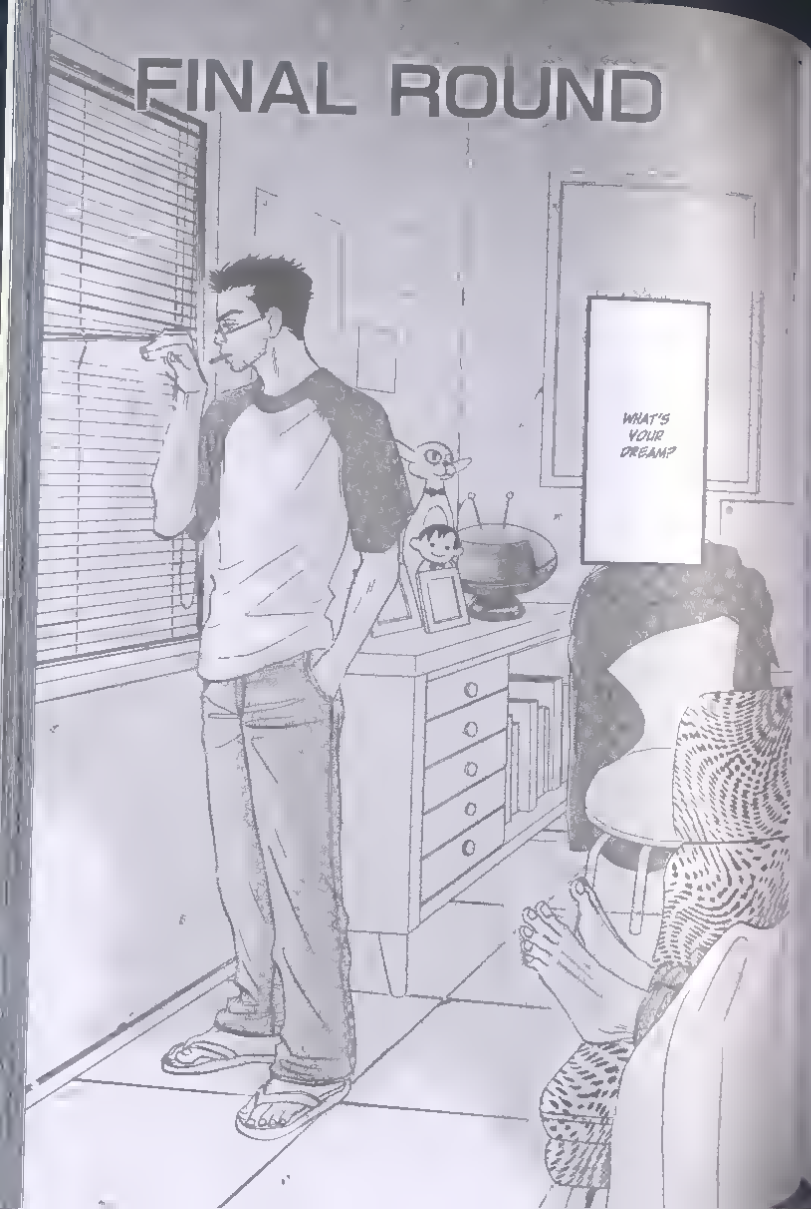
I'M BUSY HERE DID YOU FILL OUT YOUR APPLICATION?

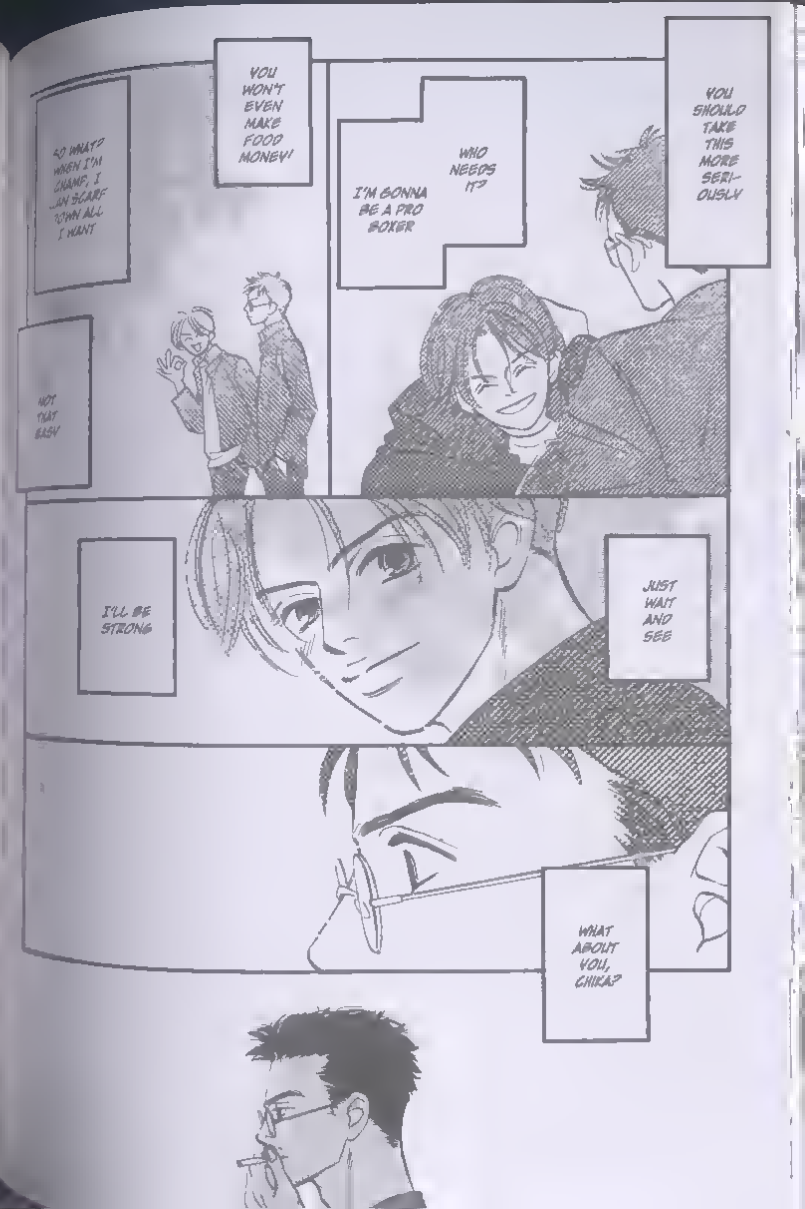
NAW I TOSSED IT

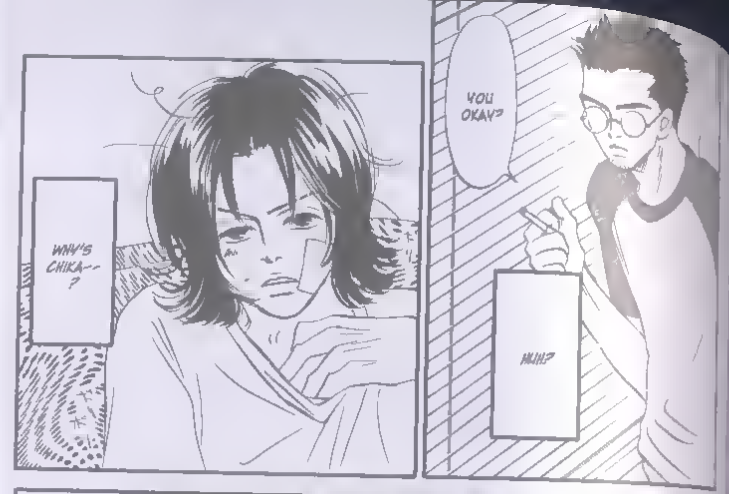
I'M. OKAY.

I'M NOT SCARED.

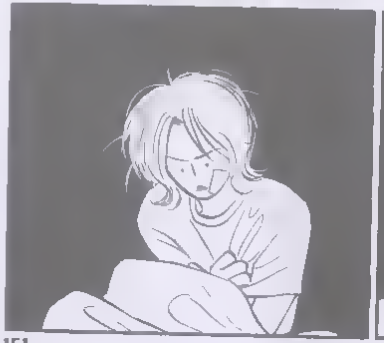
FINAL ROUND

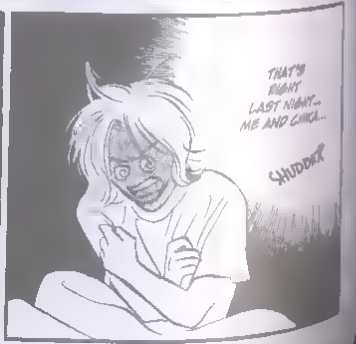

WHAT'S YOUR DREAM?

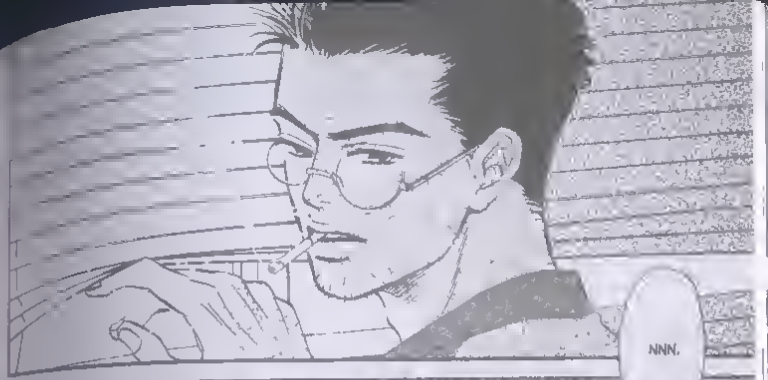

SO WHAT? WHEN I'M CHAMP, I CAN SCARF DOWN ALL I WANT
YOU WON'T EVEN MAKE FOOD MONEY!
I'M GONNA BE A PRO BOXER
WHO NEEDS IT?
YOU SHOULD TAKE THIS MORE SERIOUSLY
NOT THAT EASY
I'LL BE STRONG
JUST WAIT AND SEE
WHAT ABOUT YOU, CHIKA?


WHY'S CHIKA--?
YOU OKAY?
HUH?

I CAN'T




THAT'S RIGHT LAST NIGHT... ME AND CHIKA..
SHUDDER


NNN.

BRIGHT
SORRY DON'T MEAN TO WAKE YOU

MY WHOLE BODY ACHES

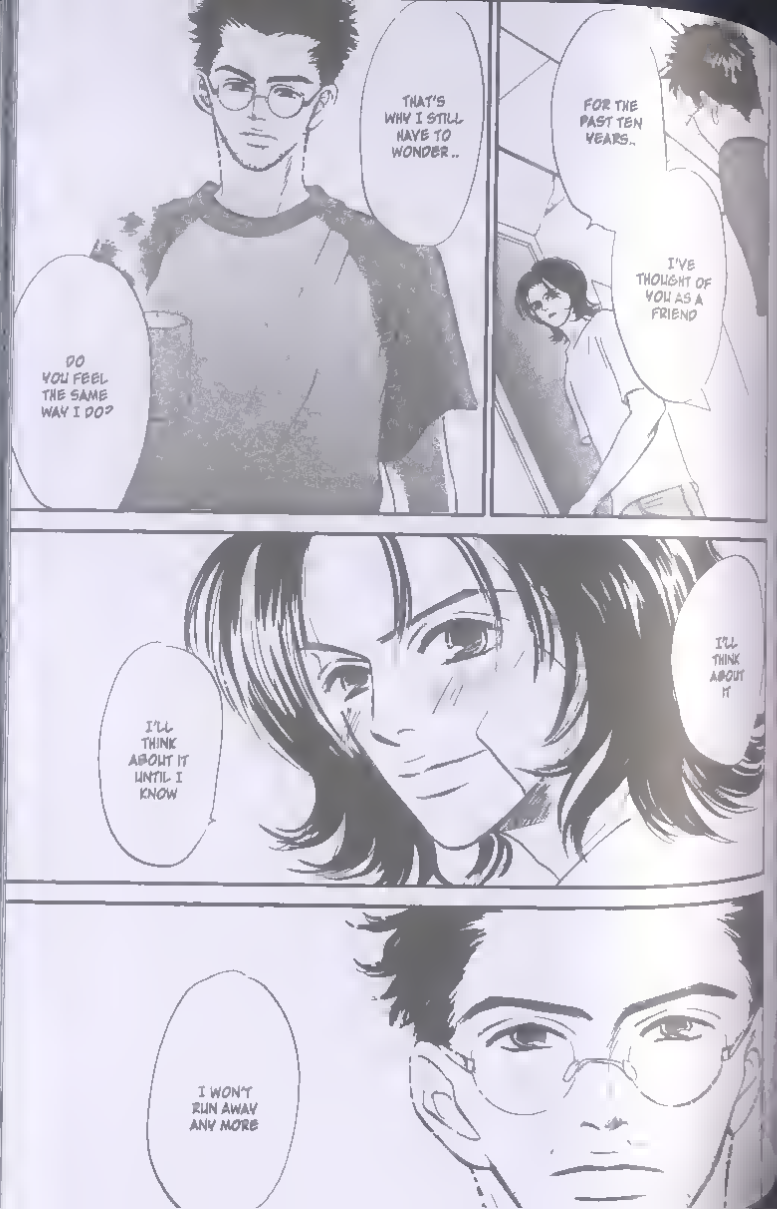
GOTTA GET UP. AND RUN
OW

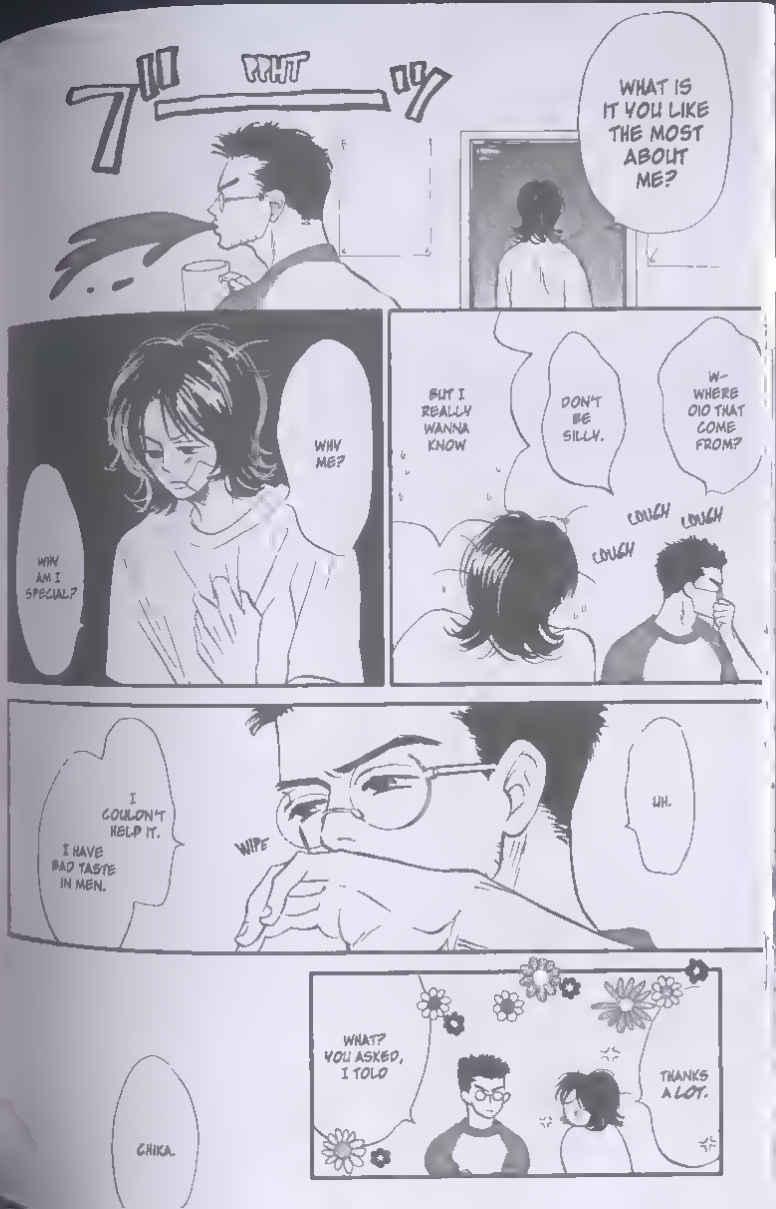
WHAT TIME IS IT?
7:00 AM.

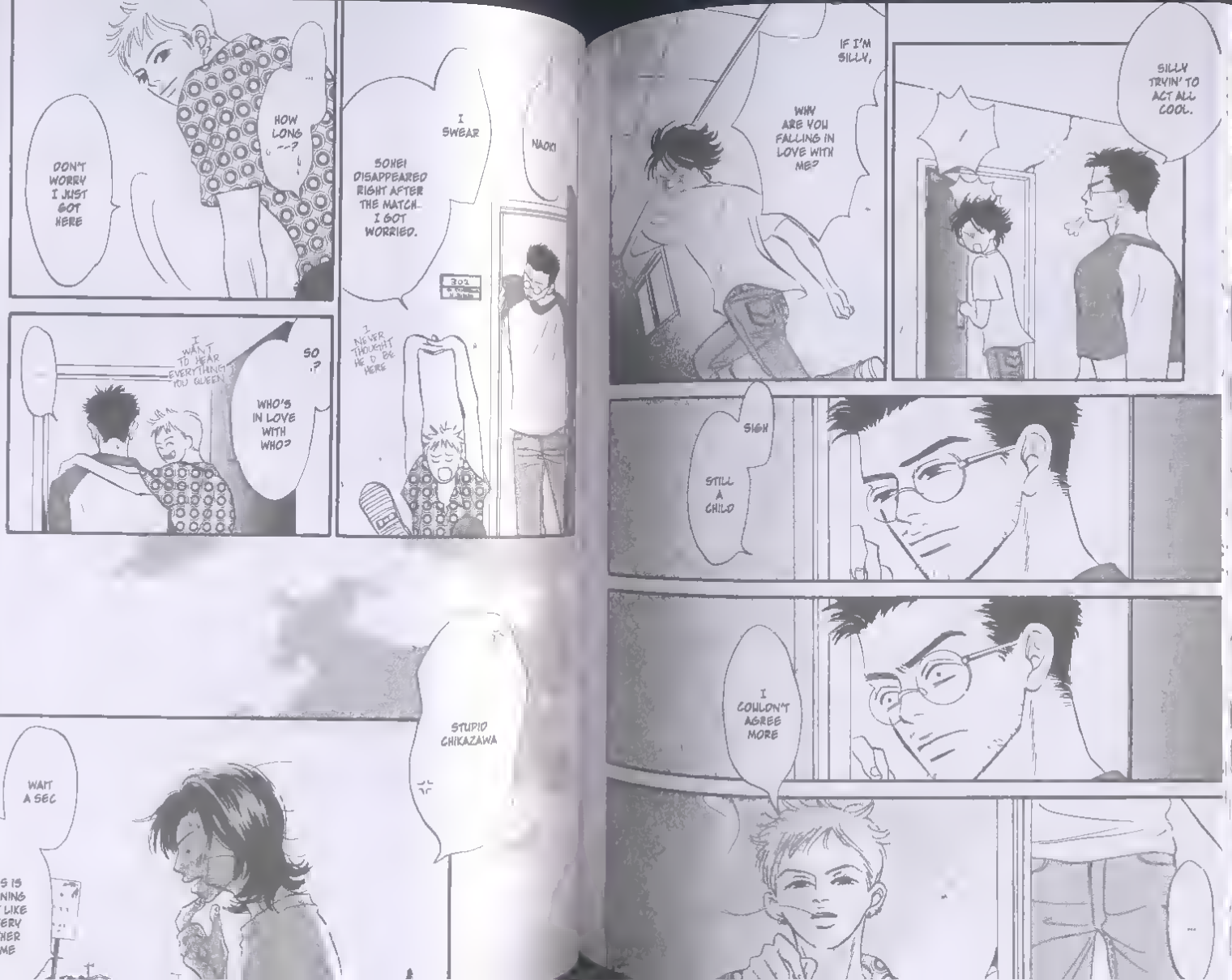
LAST

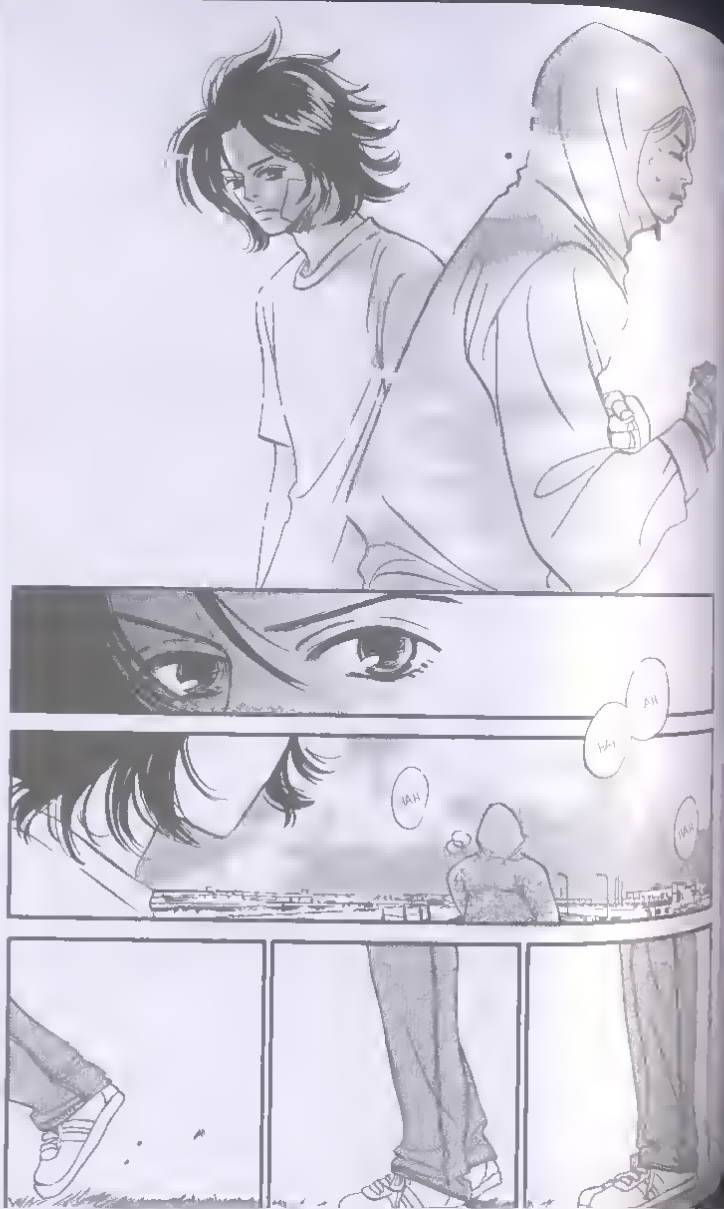
OH
NO NEED FOR ATTITUDE
I COMPLAINED THAT THE COFFEE WAS TOO HOT AND HURT MY MOUTH
I BIT MY CHEEK DURING PRACTICE
WHEN WAS IT?
AFTER THAT...
THAT'S WHEN HE STARTED IT
I HAD FUN DOING IT, TOO
WHAT?!
OH THAT.
HUH?
WHY AM I WEARING CLOTHES?
IT'S A LITTLE LATE FOR THAT
FREAK!
YOU'RE SUCH A PERV!
YOU WANT SOME COFFEE?

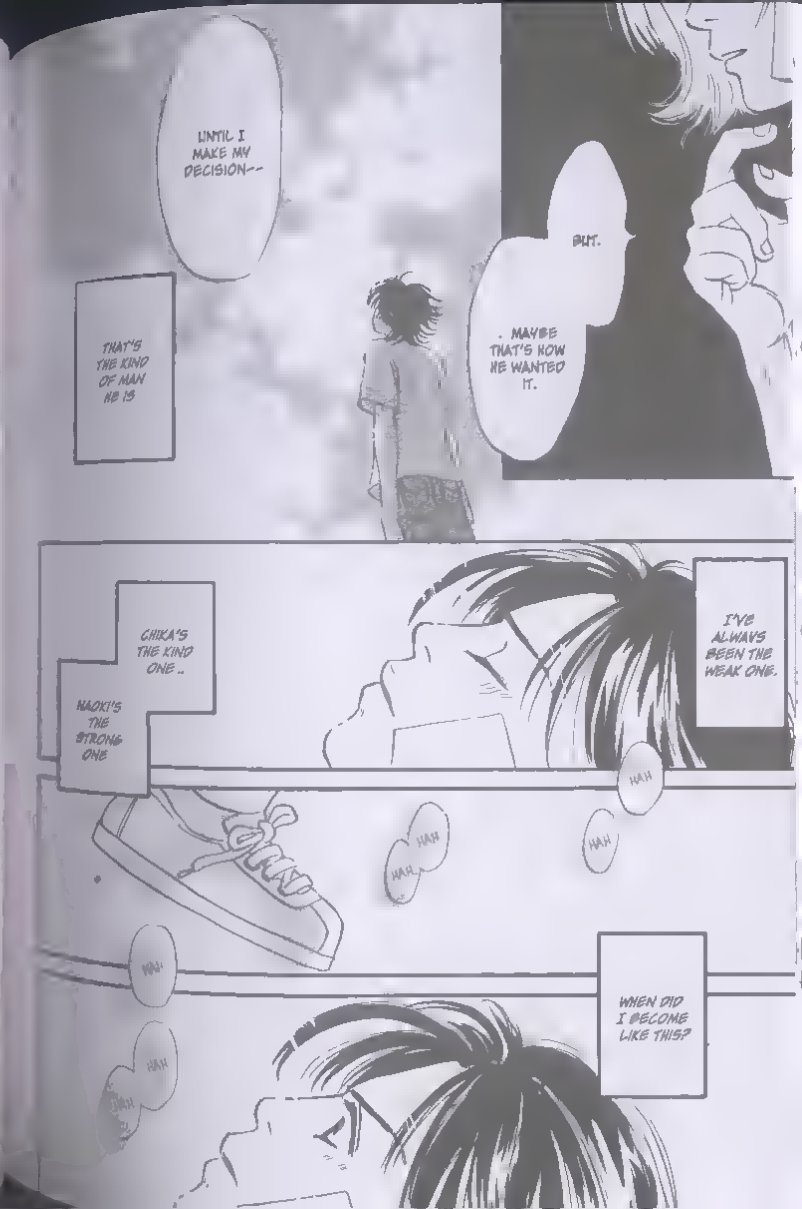
HE WAS SO NICE I COULD CRY
SLAM
HEY, CHIKA
I SHOULD GO!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SHOUT
SNIFF SNIFF SNIFF
I WAS SO DENSE
CHIKA WAS ALWAYS KIND TO ME
I HAD NO IDEA.
THINK SO?
IS GOOD
EVERY TIME I WAS HURT..
CHIKA ALWAYS PUT MILK IN MY COFFEE


THAT'S WHY I STILL HAVE TO WONDER..
DO YOU FEEL THE SAME WAY I DO?
FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS..
I'VE THOUGHT OF YOU AS A FRIEND
I'LL THINK ABOUT IT UNTIL I KNOW
I'LL THINK ABOUT IT
I WON'T RUN AWAY ANY MORE

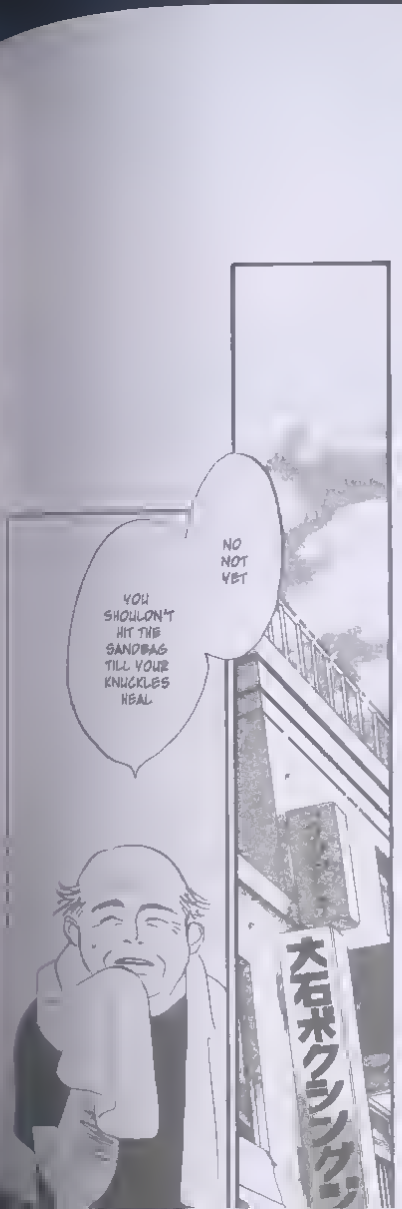

7TH MAY
WHAT IS IT YOU LIKE THE MOST ABOUT ME?
WHY ME?
WHY AM I SPECIAL?
W-WHERE DID THAT COME FROM?
DON'T BE SILLY.
BUT I REALLY WANNA KNOW
COUGH
COUGH
COUGH
UH.
WIPE
I COULDN'T HELP IT.
I HAVE BAD TASTE IN MEN.
WHAT? YOU ASKED, I TOLD
THANKS A LOT.
CHIKA.

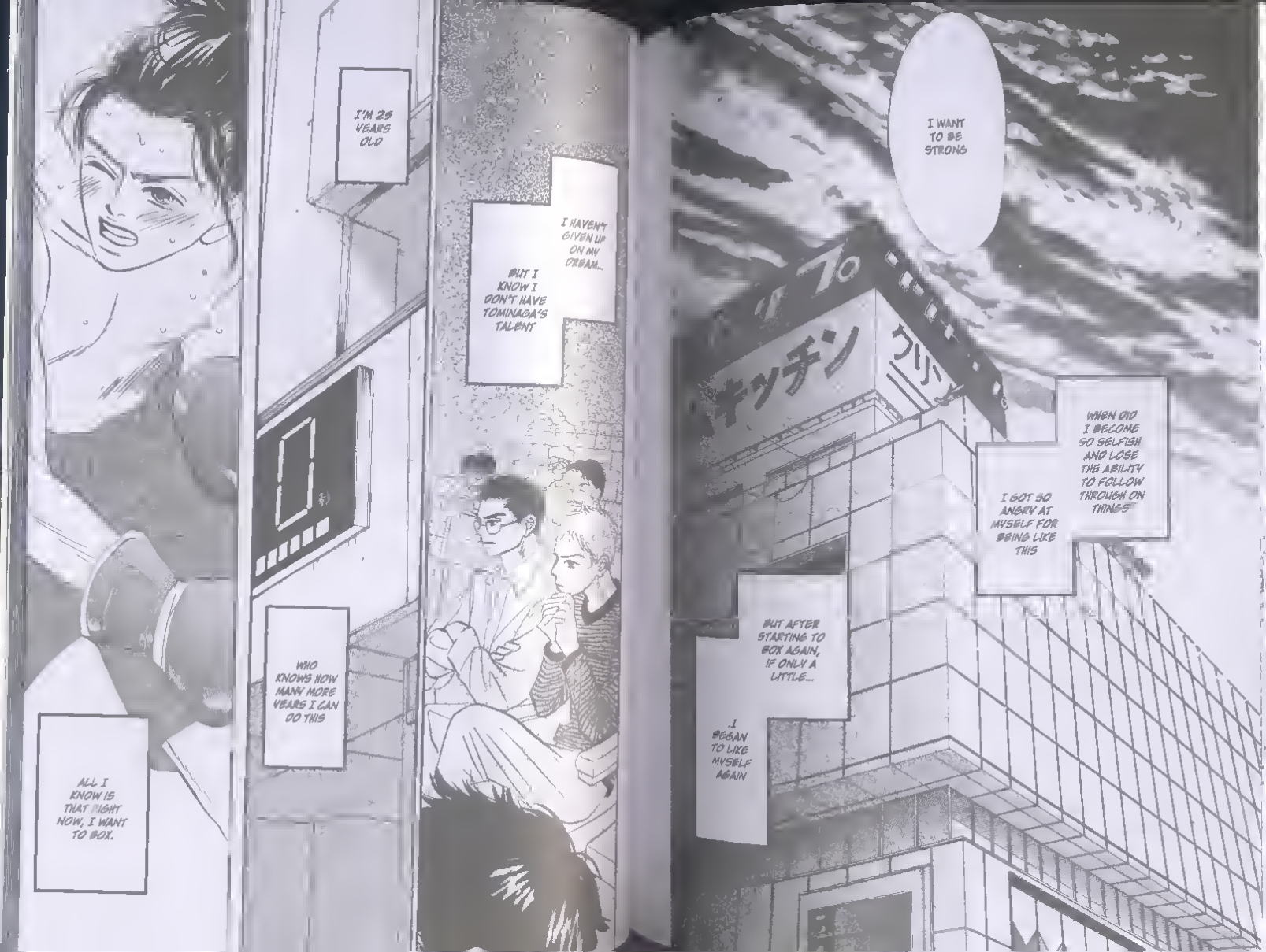

HOW LONG --?
DON'T WORRY I JUST GOT HERE
I SWEAR
SOHEI DISAPPEARED RIGHT AFTER THE MATCH... I GOT WORRIED.
NAOKI
I NEVER THOUGHT HE'D BE HERE
I WANT TO HEAR EVERYTHING YOU GUEEN
SO..?
WHO'S IN LOVE WITH WHO?
IF I'M SILLY,
WHY ARE YOU FALLING IN LOVE WITH ME?
SILLY TRYIN' TO ACT ALL COOL.
SIGH
STILL A CHILD
I COULDN'T AGREE MORE
...
STUPID CHIKAZAWA
WAIT A SEC
THIS IS TURNING OUT LIKE EVERY OTHER TIME


AH
HAH
HAH
HAH

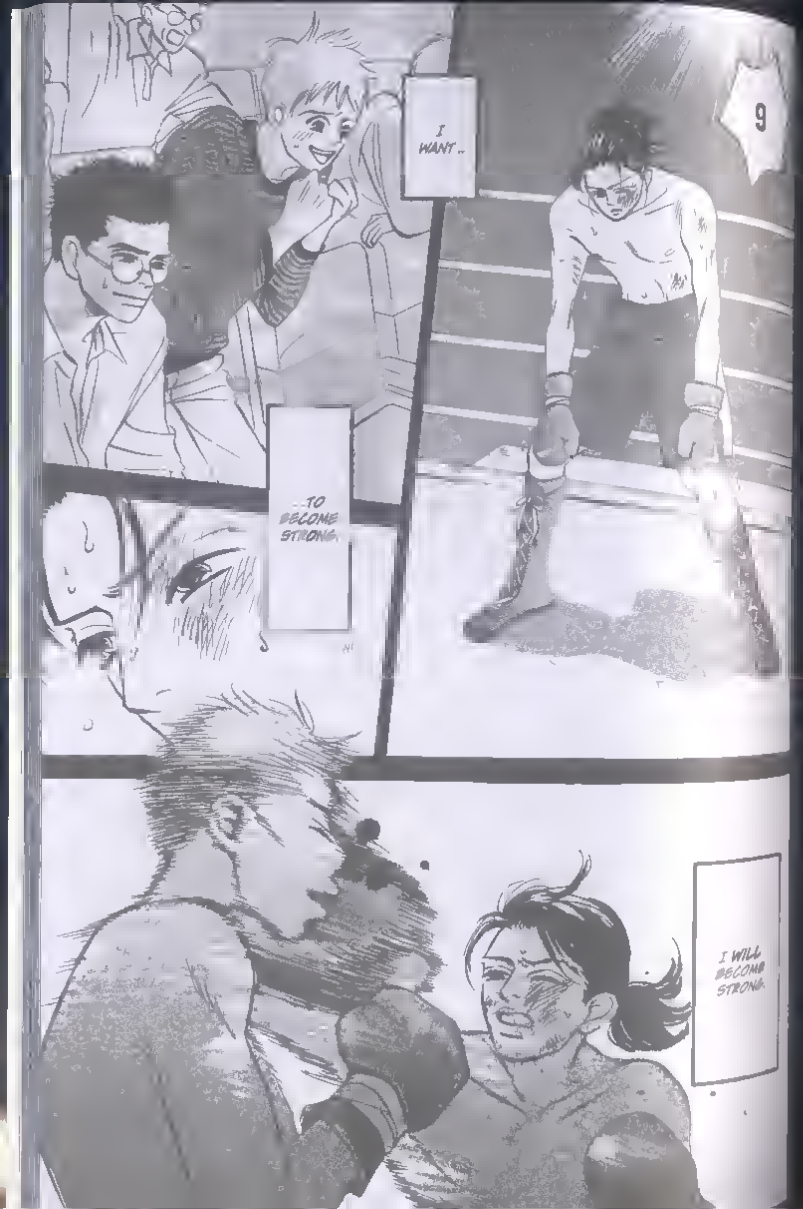

UNTIL I MAKE MY DECISION--
THAT'S THE KIND OF MAN HE IS
BUT.
. MAYBE THAT'S HOW HE WANTED IT.
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN THE WEAK ONE.
CHIKA'S THE KIND ONE..
NAOKI'S THE STRONG ONE
HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH
WHEN DID I BECOME LIKE THIS?

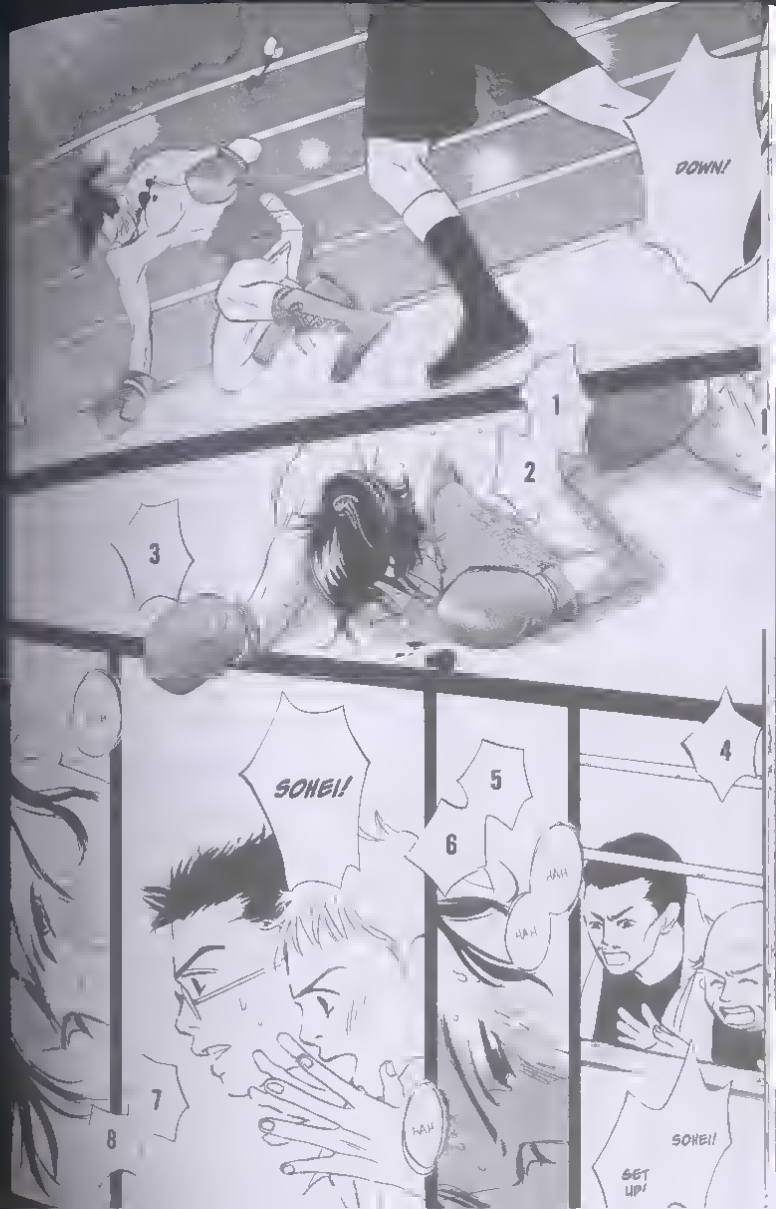
IS THAT SO?
MAYBE YOU SHOULD GET SOME REST
YEAH!
I FEEL GREAT!
MY LEGS HURT LIKE HELL THOUGH
DID YOU RUN ALL THE WAY HERE? ARE YOU OKAY?
BUT...
BUT...
大石ジム
I'LL WIN NEXT TIME
COACH
SCHEDULE ME ANOTHER FIGHT
I WANT TO CONTINUE BOXING


NO NOT YET
YOU SHOULDN'T HIT THE SANDBAG TILL YOUR KNUCKLES HEAL
大石ボクシングジ


I'M 25 YEARS OLD
WHO KNOWS HOW MANY MORE YEARS I CAN DO THIS
ALL I KNOW IS THAT RIGHT NOW, I WANT TO BOX.
BUT I KNOW I DON'T HAVE TOMINAGA'S TALENT
I HAVEN'T GIVEN UP ON MY DREAM...
I WANT TO BE STRONG
WHEN DID I BECOME SO SELFISH AND LOSE THE ABILITY TO FOLLOW THROUGH ON THINGS
I GOT SO ANGRY AT MYSELF FOR BEING LIKE THIS
BUT AFTER STARTING TO BOX AGAIN, IF ONLY A LITTLE...
I BEGAN TO LIKE MYSELF AGAIN

IF WE DON'T WATCH~
THUD
POW
SMILE
DON'T LOOK AWAY, NAOKI


I WANT..
9
...TO BECOME STRONG.
I WILL BECOME STRONG.


DOWN!
1
2
3
SOHEI!
5
6
4
HAH
HAH
7
8
SOHEI!
SET UP!

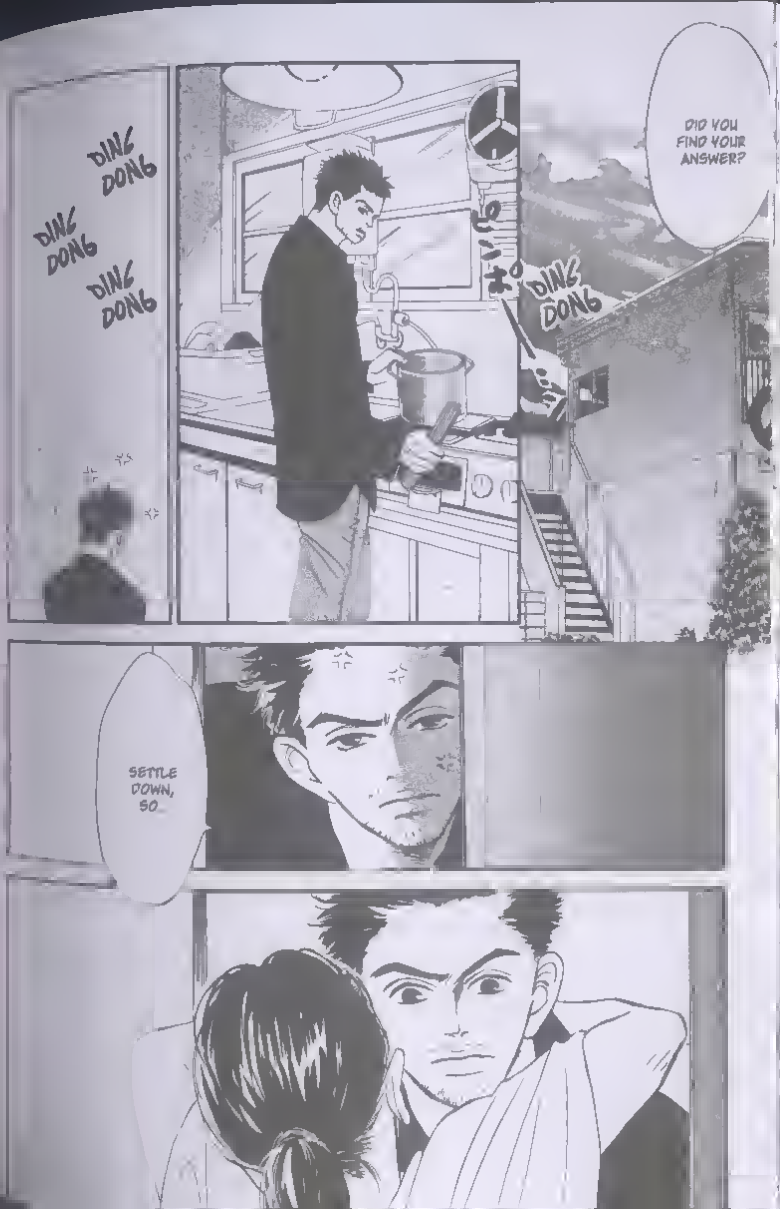
DAZE
SOHEI! YOU DID IT!
WINNER! SOHEI!
DAZE
CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR FIRST WIN!
GOOD JOB!
DID I WIN?
YES, YOU WON!
HMM?
UH.
THUD
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG

THIS IS NOT THE TIME OR PLACE, CHIKA!
AND THAT'S HOW MY FIRST WIN TURNED OUT JUST LIKE EVERY OTHER TIME
KYAAH WAH OOO
LATER.
WHAT IS IT, TOMINAGA?
DID YOU FIND SOMEONE AS GOOD LOOKIN' AS ME?
IT'S THIS PICTURE
IT'S SMALL SO IT'S HARD TO SEE, BUT
SHUT UP GEEZER
HUH?
EVERYTHING'S BACK TO NORMAL
HEY THIS LOOKS LIKE YOU

I WON!
YOU LOOKED SO COOL! ♡
NAOKI! CHIKA!
SOHEI! CONGRATULATIONS!
I FELL IN LOVE ALL OVER AGAIN
!
OOH

NAOKI!
HA-H
HA-H
HA-H
WHERE
WHERE'S CHIKA?
THANKS!
THERE'S NO WORK SO HE STAYED HOME
HMM
LET'S SEE "A FRIEND OF MINE FOR TEN YEARS TOOK HIS FIRST STEP TOWARD HIS DREAM
ON A PERSONAL NOTE, IT'S BEEN MY DREAM TO WATCH HIM ACHIEVE THIS AND THEN WRITE ABOUT IT "
ISN'T THIS A PHOTO OF YOUR FIGHT?
HEY!
I'M STILL READING!
GIMME THAT!
Text Osamu Chikazawa

WHEN DID I BECOME YOUR FRIEND?
WHAT'S WRONG?
SWOON
NOT ANYMORE
I DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING ELSE TO WRITE
WELL
HUH?
I'M NOT YOUR FRIEND ANYMORE!


DING DONG
DING DONG
DING DONG
DING DONG
DID YOU FIND YOUR ANSWER?
SETTLE DOWN, SO...

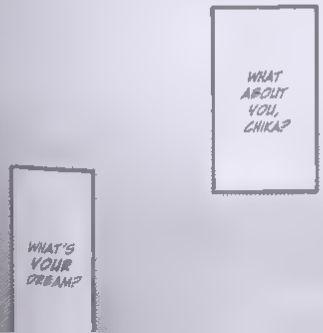
NNN
HAH
CHIKA...
WAIT
THE WINDOW
IT'S OPEN
HAH
HAH
HAH
NNN
DON'T MAKE ME
SAY IT AGAIN
CLOSE

YOU DON'T HAVE TO
BE GENTLE
DON'T
NOT THAT
STOP
NO!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT!
YOU LIKE IT ROUGH?
SILLY
WHY'RE YOU CRYING?

NNN
CHI KA
AHH
NNN
NNN
OOH
NAH
AH

I WANT TO BE A WRITER
MA!
EW! THAT DIRT!
OOH YOU'RE BLUSHING WHAT NASTY THING WERE YOU THINKIN' ABOUT?
YOU'RE EMBARRASSING
WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT DREAMS?
NO
LIKE A REPORTER
YOU MEAN LIKE A NOVELIST?
THAT'S AWESOME!
REALLY? COOL!
HA
SOHEI...
"THE SOHEI SHIRAI STORY A MAN WITH A DREAM"
WHEN I BECOME WORLD CHAMP, YOU CAN WRITE ABOUT ME!

DON'T TALK
AAH
AAH!
CHI— KA.


WHAT ABOUT YOU, CHIKA?
WHAT'S YOUR DREAM?

POSTSCRIPT

A YEAR AGO MY EDITOR ALLEY AND I
HER I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK
THAT MEANS HOW WILL I MAKE THAT
EQUIPE ON PEANUTS I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING AT
THE LACK OF DETAIL I HOPE YOU ENJOYED READING
AND
MAKES FAXING THE PAGES BACK AND FORTH SENDING THEM TO
WRONG
THE WRONG WORK I WONDERED MY EDITOR IS GLAD THAT IT'S
FOR READING I HOPE WE GET THE CHANCE TO
AGAIN
MOMOKO TAMAGAWA

MAKI
ASUKO
KAORI (WHO HAS A FRIEND WHO
BOXER)
OTHER'S A BOXER) CHIAKI (THE BOOK
LOVE
AND THE EDITORIAL STAFF AT HAKUSENSHA
VERY MUCH
VERY HELPFUL THANK YOU VERY MUCH

YOU'RE
SO SILLY

END

LAUGH UNDER THE SUN

YUGI YAMADA

June

LAUGH UNDER THE SUN

At age 15, Sohei dreamed of becoming the world boxing champion, much to the chagrin of his high school buddies. Sohei was very much a pretty boy and his face was most definitely his best asset. But Sohei's dreams were shattered two years later when he seriously injured his opponent in a sparring match. Since then, he's been unable to enter a boxing ring.

Years later, Naoki and Chika are living successful lives, while Sohei's been using his good looks and charming personality to find women to support him. When his current girlfriend dumps him, Chika finally convinces him to get back into boxing. But where Sohei was once champ material, he is now 25 years old (over the hill in boxing years) and must play catch up with all the 18-year-olds at the gym. To make things worse, Chika's been secretly in love with Sohei for years, and has about had it with waiting for Sohei to figure it out. With his upcoming pro test, his squabbles with the youngsters in the boxing club, and Chika's increasingly bold advances, will Sohei finally find some direction and happiness in his life?

From the creator of Close the Last Door, Picnic, Glass Sky and Spring Fever comes a cast of unforgettable characters.

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NATIVE MANGA
READ RIGHT TO LEFT

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